MARVEL

THE NEW AVENGERS®

BREAKOUT

FINCH

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IN THE AFTERMATH OF AVENGERS DISASSEMBLED COME THE NEW AVENGERS!

With the Avengers disbanded following an attack by one of the team's oldest members, a shadowy villain has taken advantage of their absence to initiate his ominous plans. Employing Electro to disrupt the electrical systems of the maximum-security prison known as the Raft, hundreds of super-powered villains are freed to wreak havoc on New York. Without the Avengers to answer the call, a group of heroes must form a makeshift alliance to subdue the rampaging villains and save the city. In the heat of battle, this new team fills the void left by the Avengers' demise – the New Avengers!

After shocking Marvel fans with the series-shattering *Avengers Disassembled* storyline, writer Brian Michael Bendis and artist David Finch begin an all-new chapter in Marvel Comics history with *New Avengers.* Featuring a cast of fan-favorite characters including Wolverine, Captain America, Iron Man, Spider-Man and Spider-Woman teamed with hard-edged heroes Luke Cage and the Sentry, *New Avengers* presents a 21st-century revitalization of the classic Avengers concept.

Collecting *New Avengers #1-6.*

MARVEL

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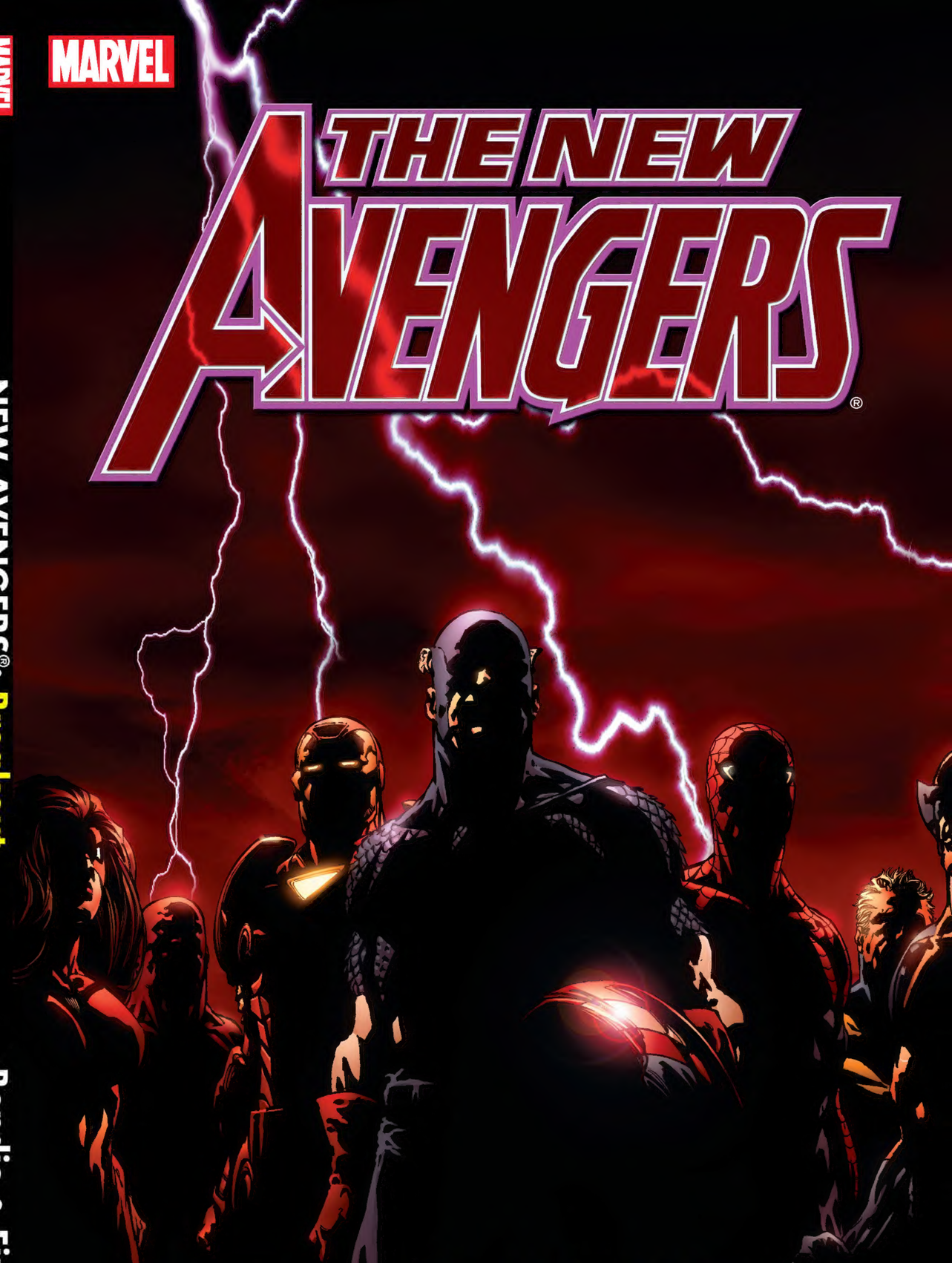
NEW AVENGERS®: Breakout

Bendis • Finch

VOL 1

MARVEL

THE NEW AVENGERS®



BREAKOUT

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MARVEL
PSR 1

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS • DAVID FINCH • DANNY MIKI

#1 THE NEW AVENGERS®

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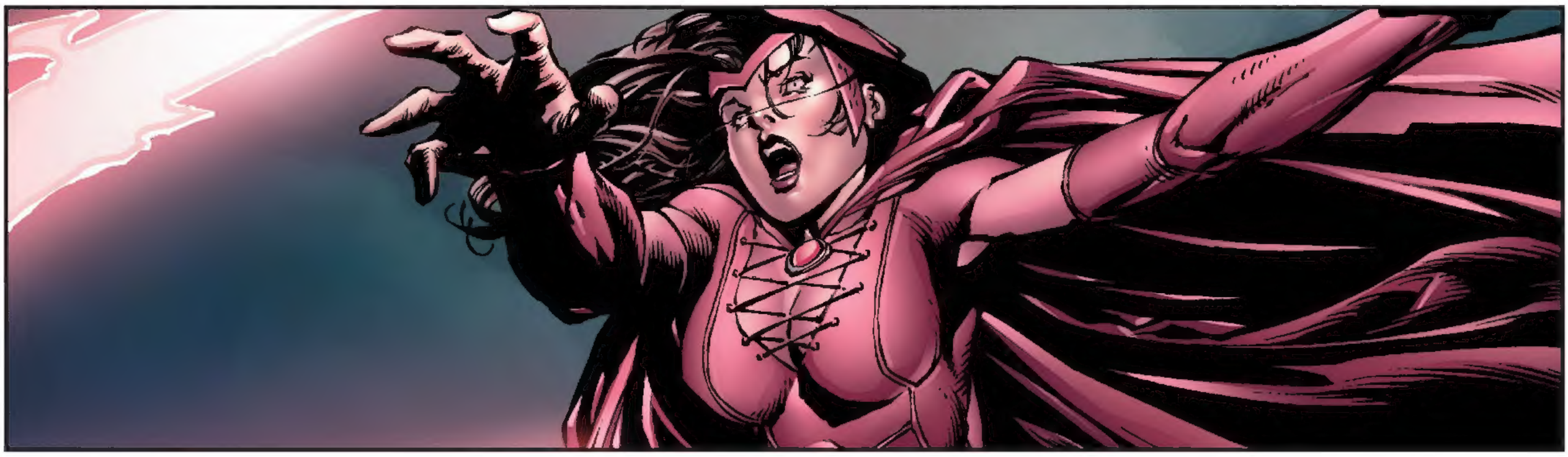
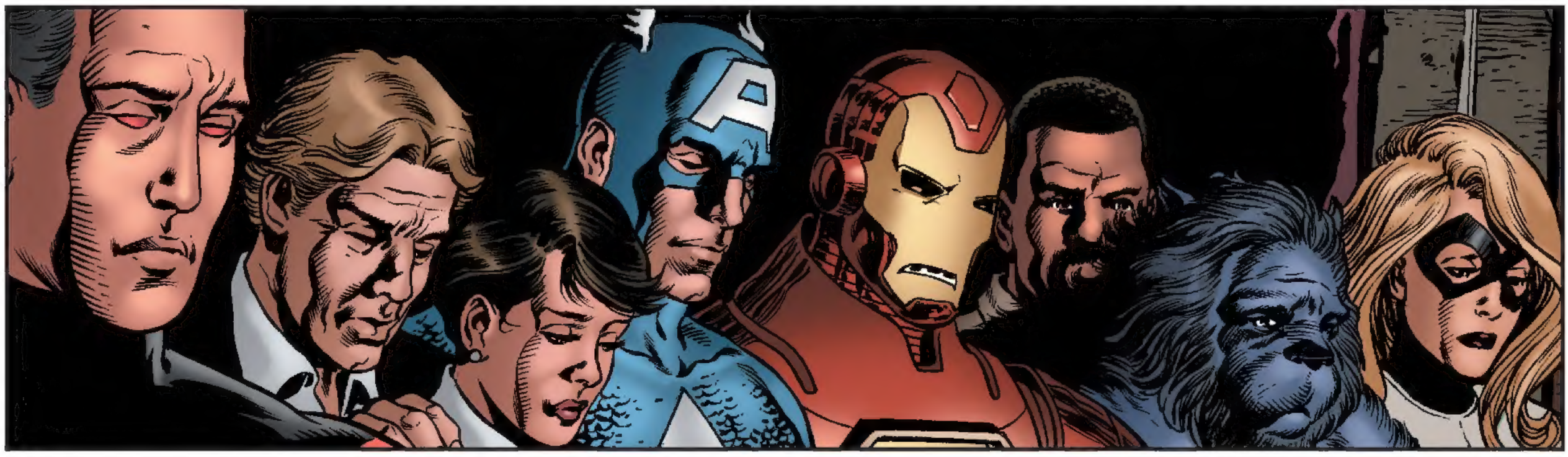
It was the worst day in Avengers history.

The Scarlet Witch suffered a total nervous breakdown after losing control of her reality-altering powers.



In the chaos created around the breakdown,
beloved Avengers Hawkeye, Ant-Man and the Vision lost their lives.



Many of the other Avengers were hurt, both emotionally and physically.
Without funding to keep going, the rest of the team quietly disbanded.

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THE DEAL IS ACCEPTABLE?

IT'S STILL KIND OF VAGUE.

BUT THE MONEY--

I'M TALKING ABOUT THE PLAN. THE *PLAN* IS VAGUE TO ME.

THE PLAN IS UP TO YOU.

WE DON'T CARE *HOW* YOU DO IT.

YOU'RE A TALENTED MAN, AND WE WOULDN'T BE SO ARROGANT AS TO TELL YOU HOW TO DO WHAT YOU DO.

BUT YOU'LL NEED TO CREATE A DISTRACTION SO COMPLETE--

--THAT THE AUTHORITIES WON'T EVEN KNOW *WHAT* HAS ACTUALLY HAPPENED UNTIL IT IS LONG PAST.

WE NEED THE TRAIL COLD... BEFORE THEY EVEN FIGURE OUT WHERE THE TRAIL *IS.*

IT'S MORE THAN I'VE EVER TRIED. AND THE TARGET--

WE HAVE FAITH.

AND IF I %@#$* IT UP, YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY ME THE OTHER HALF.

THERE'S THAT TOO.

WHEN WOULD YOU LIKE THIS DONE?

OUR INTELLIGENCE SAYS THAT THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE OUT OF THE COUNTRY, AND THE X-MEN ARE PREOCCUPIED.

THE AVENGERS CALLED IT QUITS.

WE BELIEVE THE TIME IS NOW.

COSTUME OR NO COSTUME?

THAT IS COMPLETELY UP TO YOU.

COSTUME.

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BREAKOUT! PART ONE

RYKER'S ISLAND MAXIMUM SECURITY PENITENTIARY.

THE RAFT, RYKER'S MAXIMUM-MAXIMUM SECURITY INSTALLATION.

MATTHEW MURDOCK, I'M JESSICA DREW. IT'S A GREAT HONOR TO MEET YOU.

SPIDER-WOMAN.

THE FIRST AND BEST.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO ARRANGE THIS.

I DIDN'T, YOU DID.

YOU HAVE SOME POWERFUL FRIENDS. THEY DON'T *LET* CIVILIANS ON THIS FACILITY ANYMORE.

JESSICA, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MY ASSOCIATE, LUKE CAGE.

WE'VE MET. YOU LOOK GREAT.

THEY GONNA POINT THOSE THINGS AT US ALL DAY?

S.H.I.E.L.D. POLICY. YOU'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO SUCK IT UP TILL WE GET INSIDE.

AND I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MY LAW PARTNER, FOGGY NEL...SON...

FOGGY, WE LANDED.

LET ME TAKE YOU THROUGH SECURITY AND I.D. CHECK, AND THEN WE'LL GO DOWN TO MEET HIM.

HOW *MANY* ARE DOWN HERE?

EIGHT LEVELS OF THEM.

LET'S SEE... THEY GOT BUSHWACKER, CARNAGE, CROSSBONES, JIGSAW--

--TIGER SHARK, VERMIN, SCARECROW, MISTER HYDE, PURPLE MAN, THE WHOLE DAMN WRECKING CREW...

GREAT...

...THE U-FOES, WHOEVER THEY--

PURPLE MAN IS HERE?

RIGHT OVER THERE. YOU KNOW HIM?

CAN HE SEE US?

YEAH.

HE'S DRUGGED OUT OF HIS GOURD, THOUGH.

AND YOU'VE GOT *ALL* OF THESE CRIMINALS LOCKED UP IN ONE PLACE?

YOU GET WHAT I'M SAYING? ALL IN THE *SAME* PLACE?

WELL, THAT *IS* WHAT A PRISON IS FOR.

I KNOW, BUT--

I'M NOT EXACTLY THRILLED TO BE HANGING OUT HERE EITHER...

...BUT NO CIVILIAN VISITORS WITHOUT A SUPER-POWERED S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT CHAPERONE...AND *I'M* YOUR SUPER-POWERED S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT CHAPERONE.

EVEN SUPER-POWERED *CIVILIANS* GET A SUPER-POWERED CHAPERONE.

AND, I JUST WANT TO SAY, MR. MURDOCK, I THINK IT ABSOLUTELY *SUCKS* WHAT THE PRESS DID TO YOU--

--OUTTING YOU AS DAREDEVIL LIKE THAT WAS JUST--

YES, CONSIDERING IT ISN'T TRUE.

WHAT ARE THE--THE PRECAUTIONS HERE? *HOW* THICK IS THAT GLASS THEY GOT THEM BEHIND?

I'M NOT AN EXPERT OR ANYTHING, BUT IT'S NOT GLASS, MR. NELSON. THOSE WERE MONITORS.

LIVE BROADCASTS OF THEIR CELLS, WHICH ARE BEHIND A THICK STEEL METAL, ADAMANTIUM-LINED CELL.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE THEY CAN DO TO KEEP ALL THESE CREEPS UNDER WRAPS.

WE'RE UNDERWATER...

AN ARMY OF HIGHLY TRAINED, FULLY ARMED S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS...

ALL OF THEM HAVE BEEN CUT OFF FROM ANY AND ALL HUMAN CONTACT...

THEIR POWERS HAVE BEEN NEUTRALIZED...

YOU COULD TAKE THEM ALL OUT BACK AND SHOOT THEM IN THE HEAD...

THIS *IS* AMERICA... EVERYONE HAS RIGHTS.

EVEN HOMICIDAL GENETIC FREAKS WHO HEAR VOICES TELLING THEM TO DO WHATEVER IT IS LITTLE VOICES TELL YOU TO DO.

I HAVE A LITTLE VOICE THAT IS TELLING ME TO RUN SCREAMING FROM HERE.

COME ON, THINK ABOUT IT...

THIS IS *PROBABLY* THE SAFEST PLACE IN NEW YORK CITY.

WHEND'JOU JOIN S.H.I.E.L.D., JESS?

COUPLE OF YEARS AGO. NEEDED THE PAYCHECK. NEEDED SOME GOALS.

OH, THIS ISN'T *TOO* CREEPY.

MR. NELSON, SERIOUSLY, EVEN IF ALL THE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF TECHNOLOGY ALL OF A SUDDEN MALFUNCTIONED...

...IF ALL SIXTY-SEVEN HIGHLY TRAINED S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS, ARMED AGENTS, FORTIFYING THE PREMISES *DISAPPEARED*...

...YOU, SIR, *STILL* HAVE NOT ONE, BUT *THREE* BIG-TIME SUPER HEROES STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO YOU.

YOU UNDERSTAND I'M *NOT* DARE--

OH MY GOD.

IS THIS-- ARE YOU DOING A LITTLE SHTICK HERE?

WH-WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

IT'S THE GENERATORS.

WHAT-- WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

THEY'RE POWERING DOWN--

UH-OH.

NO!
PETER PARKER!
MJ, NO!
I'M PUTTING MY FOOT DOWN, WOMAN! THAT IS IT!! NO! AND NO MEANS NO!
CALL MARVEL ASAP
DAVE WALTERS CALLED
BUT I--
WE HAVE ALMOST *NO* FREE TIME TOGETHER, MJ...
...YOU *REALLY* WANT TO SPEND IT WATCHING A HUGH GRANT MOVIE?
IT'S ROMANTIC.
I AM SO WEAK.
TEE HEE...
YOU DID NOT JUST *"TEE HEE"* ME.
IT WORKED.
MORITAKA ART BY
DAVE WALTERS COLORS BY
TSK, THAT'S A SHAME.
YOU DID THAT ON...
...PURPOSE.
HONEY, YOU BETTER--

OKAY, GOT THE COSTUME ON, WEBS ARE UP AND WORKING AND READY TO GO...

...NOW HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO GET *OUT* THERE?

THE WEBS ONLY WORK IF THERE'S SOMETHING TO WEB *TO*...

AND THERE BE NOTHING TO--

ALL RIGHT...

THWIP

HAAAAAZZAHOOZY!!

DON'T FLY TOO CLOSE, SOLDIER. JUST SWING IN LOW AND I'LL HOP OUT.

BUT SIR...

KRAKOOM

YIKES!!

CAPTAIN!!

SHABABOOM

AAGGH!

NOT YOUR FAULT, SOLDIER!!

LET'S GO!!

KRABOOM

GLAH!

AND HERE'S ME, SWIMMING *TOWARDS* THE DISASTER.

ACTUALLY, I ONLY C-C-CAN *IMAGINE* THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING.

B-B-B-BECAUSE I LOST THE FEELING IN MY F-F-FEET AS SOON AS I HIT THE ICE COLD WATER OF THE ICE C-C-COLD ATLANTIC OCEAN.

AND ASSUMING, OF COURSE, I *SURVIVE* WHATEVER GOOFBALL COSMIC FIESTA I'M DIVING HEADFIRST INTO HERE...

...*NOW* I DON'T HAVE A *RIDE HOME.*

OH MAN...

MY SPIDER-SENSE IS BUZZING SO LOUD I CAN BARELY HEAR MYSELF TALK TO MYSE--

WHOOF! CAPTAIN AMERICA!

YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO BRING A SPARE COSTUME? MINE IS SOAKING.

WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?

I GIVE UP, WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR SMARTASS, THIS IS--

HEY! I JUST GOT HERE.

STAY BEHIND ME.

WHAT *IS* THIS PLACE?

THIS IS AGENT MELVEY ON LEVEL B. WE HAVE A REAL SITUATION HERE.

ANYYAAAGGHH!!!

CRAKOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

SIR, IF YOU'RE READY TO GO...

AND THE REST OF YOU, LISTEN UP!

MY NAME IS MAX DILLON. SOME OF YOU KNOW ME, SOME OF YOU DON'T--

--BUT I BROKE YOU LOSERS OUT!!

HAVE FUN, ENJOY YOUR LIVES... BUT FROM HERE ON IN, NOW AND FOREVER...

...YOU GUYS OWE ME HUGE!!

ALL OF YOU.

STAY BEHIND LUKE, FOGGY.

YOU STAY BEHIND HIM, I'M GETTING THE HELL OUT OF--

HE HAS UNBREAKABLE SKIN. YOU STAY BEHIND HIM. THAT'S WHY WE HIRED HIM.

LET'S FIND THE STAIRS.

NO, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING UP THERE.

JESSICA, WHERE IS HE?

WHO?

MR. REYNOLDS, MY NAME IS MATTHEW MURDOCK.

I WAS COMING HERE TO SEE YOU AS A FAVOR TO REED RICHARDS.

BUT IT SEEMS THAT WE ARE IN NEED OF YOUR IMMEDIATE HELP.

THE MAN WE CAME TO SEE.

WHO IS HE?

THAT'S ROBERT REYNOLDS.

HE WENT BY THE NAME OF THE SENTRY.

HE'S, MAYBE, ACCORDING TO REED RICHARDS, THE MOST POWERFUL SUPER HERO ON THE PLANET EARTH.

WHAT-- WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?

HE KILLED HIS WIFE.

MARVEL
PSR 2

BENDIS
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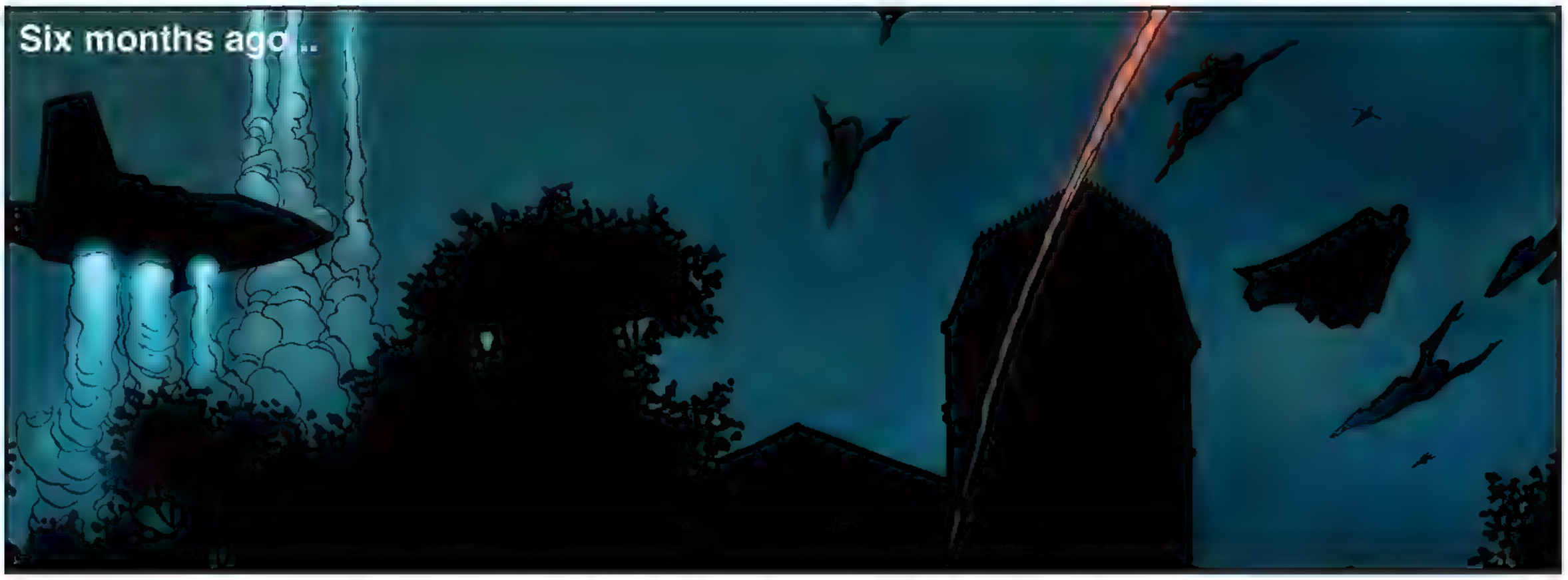

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In the chaos created around the breakdown, beloved Avengers Hawkeye, Ant-Man, and the Vision lost their lives.

Many of the other Avengers were hurt, both emotionally and physically. Without funding to keep going, the rest of the team quietly disbanded.

The criminal Electro is hired to infiltrate the high-tech maximum-security prison known as the Raft. He sucks all the power out of Manhattan and overloads the entire island security system, setting free eighty-seven of the most dangerous and powerful criminals on Earth. Who hired Electro to do this and who he helped to escape is a mystery.

Trapped on the prison island are S.H.I.E.L.D. Agent Jessica Drew (a.k.a. Spider-Woman), blind lawyer Matt Murdock (a.k.a. Daredevil), Murdock's partner Foggy Nelson, and Luke Cage, Hero for Hire. They have come to see the most powerful super hero in the world, the Sentry, who is rotting in a solitary basement cell because he killed his wife.

When the city goes black, Captain America is already in a black ops S.H.I.E.L.D. copter, headed toward the island. He does not realize that Spider-Man has also hitched a ride.

BREAKOUT! PART TWO

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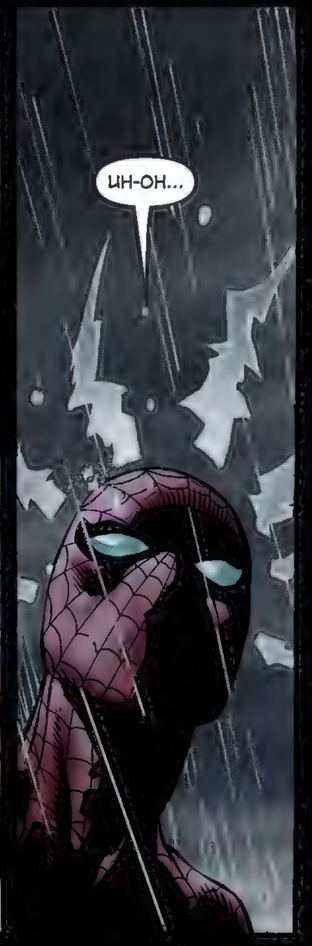
HUH.

OKEY DOKEY!
WELL, AS LONG AS I'VE GOT THE TIGHTS ON AND NO RIDE HOME...
SPIDER-MAN, WAIT!! LET THE S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS TAKE POSITION, THEN WE'LL...

I LOVE YOU LIKE A REALLY, *REALLY* OLDER UNCLE, CAP, BUT...
...I HAVE THIS WHOLE *GUILT* THING ABOUT PUTTING OTHER PEOPLE IN HARM'S WAY.
SO LET ME DO WHAT *I* CAN DO HERE AND *THEN* WE'LL--

--SEE WHAT WE NEED TO....

UM...
HELLO?


UH-OH...

AGH!

FSHAM

IZRRGG

FTAZZZ

CCCRRKKAAKOOM

FREEDOM, FINALLY...

NNN...

COUNT LUCHINO NEFARIA

POWER SIPHON, ORGANIZED CRIME LEADER

I HAVE THE POWER TO END YOUR LIFE A THOUSAND DIFFERENT WAYS.

AND YET TODAY NOTHING COULD BE MORE SATISFYING THAN THIS.

@#@$, IT *IS* CHRISTMAS!!

KILL HIM!

AAGHGH!

GUYS, YOU GOTTA LET ME HAVE HIM. I GOT HISTORY HERE WITH THIS--

NO! WE NEED HIM AS A HOSTAGE! YOU WANT OUTTA HERE OR NOT?

WHO *CARES* ABOUT HIM? LET'S JUST GO!

STUPID MASK!

YOU REMEMBER ME, ASS?

DID WE DATE IN HIGH SCHOOL?

ALWAYS WITH THE FUNNY!

CRACK

AARRRGGH!

SUB-BASEMENT LEVEL SEVEN

MURDOCK, WE SHOULD JUST GET OUT OF HERE.

MR. REYNOLDS, PLEASE, WE COULD REALLY USE YOUR HELP.

MR. REYNOLDS?

EXCUSE ME, AGENT DREW, WE DON'T HAVE A PROTOCOL FOR THIS SITUATION. WHAT SHOULD WE--?

JESSICA, WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

WELL, WE CAN'T SEE DOWN HERE.

THOUGHT A LITTLE OF MY SPIDER-WOMAN VENOM BLASTS WOULD HELP US FIND A WAY *OUT* OF HERE.

JUST POINT US TO THE STAIRS!

THE SMOKE IS KILLING MY SENSES.

MATT?

MATT, I DIDN'T WANT TO COME TO THIS FLOATING HELLHOLE IN THE *FIRST* PLACE!

PLEASE GET ME OUT OF HERE BEFORE SOMETHING--

--INSANE...

WHICH ONE OF YOU $%^&S I GOT TO THANK FOR THE TICKET OUT OF HERE?!

AGH! COME ON!!

MY SHIRT!

CLETUS KASADY

ALIAS: CARNAGE
HOMICIDAL VAMPIRIC
ALIEN SYMBIOTE

AGH!

HEY, SPIDER-SKANK! YOU--I'M GONNA RIP OUT ONE OF YOUR ORGANS BEFORE I BLOW OUT OF HERE.

FOGGY, STAY IN THERE AND DON'T OPEN THE DOOR NO MATTER WHAT!

YOU HEAR ME? *DON'T OPEN THIS DOOR!!*

FFFOOM

OH MY GOD...

DON'T LET HIM TOUCH YOU! HE FEEDS OFF PEOPLE!

DAMN RIGHT!

AND I'M DAMN HUNGRY!

ARGH!

HEY, EASY SNACKS!

OH, NO!!

OH MY GOD!

HARRGGH!

IT'S CALLED UNBREAKABLE SKIN, %%^^@#!!

KEEP TRYING, AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN!!

JESSICA, JUST GRAB THE GUARDS AND TRY TO GET *OUT OF HERE!* WE CAN'T WIN AGAINST THAT--

MURDOCK?

FIRST HUMAN FACE I'VE SEEN IN A YEAR...

...AND IT'S YOU.

CRACK

ARGH!

ARGH!

HA!

DR. CALVIN ZABO

ALIAS: MISTER HYDE SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH AND ENDURANCE

KURT GERHARDT

RAFT MAIN FLOOR

THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER SEE *ME* AGAIN, HUH, SPIDER-ASS?

ALIAS: FOOLKILLER

POK

ARTHUR BLACKWOOD

HE'S MINE!!

THE POWER OF GOD GUIDES MY HAND...

ALIAS: THE CRUSADER

CRACK

DANIEL LEIGHTON

MY TURN, MY TURN!!

I'VE *DREAMED* OF THIS.

ALIAS: CUTTHROAT

THIS ENDS NOW!

MR. REYNOLDS. MY--MY NAME IS FRANKLIN NELSON.

THAT WAS MY LAW PARTNER YOU WERE TALKING TO BEFORE.

MATT MURDOCK.

HE'S A GOOD GUY AND HE CAME HERE--LIKE HE SAID--WE CAME HERE AS A FAVOR TO REED RICHARDS.

DOCTOR RICHARDS ASKED US TO COME HERE AND TALK TO YOU.

WE KNOW--WE KNOW YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE YOU ASKED TO BE PUT HERE.

HELLO?

LISTEN, YOU'RE ***ONLY*** IN HERE BECAUSE ***YOU*** ASKED TO BE IN HERE. DO YOU KNOW THAT?

WHEN THE MOST POWERFUL SUPER HERO ON EARTH TELLS NICK FURY HE NEEDS TO BE LOCKED UP... THEY DON'T QUESTION WHY, THEY JUST LOCK YOU UP.

BUT WE CAME HERE TO HELP YOU. WE CAME HERE TO HELP YOU FIGURE OUT WHAT ***HAPPENED*** TO YOU AND YOUR WIFE.

BUT--BUT NOW WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP.

MY FRIENDS OUTSIDE--

--THEY'RE--THEY'RE TRULY AMAZING PEOPLE--

BUT IF THIS FACILITY IS SHUT DOWN, THEN ALL THESE--THESE CRIMINALS ARE RUNNING AROUND, AND THAT'S MORE THAN THEY CAN HANDLE.

PLEASE--PLEASE HELP MY FRIENDS.

PLEASE.

SPASH

YOU PUT ME HERE, MURDOCK!!

ACTUALLY, ZABO, *YOU* PUT YOU HERE...

...BUT I SEE THAT YOU MIGHT NOT BE IN THE MINDSET TO SEE IT THAT WAY!

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THIS IS I'M FIGHTING.

IT'S CARNAGE! IT'S ONE OF SPIDER-MAN'S.

WELL, THEN GET *HIM* DOWN HERE!

I WOULD *LOVE* THAT! BUT YOU FIRST!

CRACK

GUYS, WE STILL DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HAPPENED!

THERE'RE 87 CONVICTED FELONS IN THIS PRISON. WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE AND CALL FOR...

KRAKOOM

...REINFORCEMENTS...

BOOOM
BOOOM
BOOOM
BOOOM
BOOOM
BOOOM
BOOOM
BOOOM
BOOOM
BOOOM

OKAY, NOW WE'RE TALKIN'!

AAARGH!

SMASH

ARMS, LEGS, AND A BIG %^@&ING MOUTH...*YOU* I CAN HANDLE!

AT LEAST NOW WE HAVE A WAY OUT.

MR. NELSON, HOLD ON. I CAN FLY A LITTLE, I'M GOING TO GET YOU--

A LITTLE?

LITTLE BIT. MIGHT TAKE A COUPLE OF TRIES.

WHERE'S THIS WATER COMING FROM? ARE WE SINKING?

NO...

...BUT YOU *ARE* DROWNING.

AW, CRAP...

MORRIS "MORRIE" BENCH

ALIAS: HYDRO-MAN
BIOLOGICAL LIQUID TRANSFORMATION

AAGGH!

WHOOSSH

MATT MURDOCK? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HOW DO I LOOK?
YEAH.
YOU DOING OKAY?
YOU DROPPED YOUR MASK.
NOT A GREAT CAREER MOVE!
CAPTAIN AMERICA? NOT THAT I'M NOT THRILLED TO SEE YOU--
DOES ANYONE KNOW HOW THIS STARTED?
I AIN'T THRILLED ABOUT *ANY* OF THIS!
NO, BUT YOU CAN BLAME *ME* IF YOU WANT. EVERYONE ELSE WILL.
DOESN'T MATTER. WE NEED TO CONTAIN THIS AND KEEP AS MANY AS WE CAN FROM ESCAPING!
THIS IS ALREADY A DIS--*AARGH!*
HA!
CAP!
HEY, STEVE...

...LONG TIME NO SEE...

IRON MAN!

SO, HOW'S IT BEEN GOIN'?

THING IS-- I DON'T EVEN KNOW.

I WAS ON MY WAY TO A SECURITY CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. AND INSTEAD I'VE BEEN--

LORD, LOOK AT ALL THIS!

GUESS WE SHOULDN'T HAVE BROKEN UP THE AVENGERS.

WE DIDN'T. YOU DID.

LUKE CAGE...

...DO ME A FAVOR.

KILL ALL THESE OTHER *"HERO"* FRIENDS OF YOURS...

...AND THEN KILL YOURSELF.

ZEBEDIAH KILLGRAVE

ALIAS: PURPLE MAN
MIND CONTROL

TO BE CONTINUED...

MARVEL

PSR 3

BENDIS
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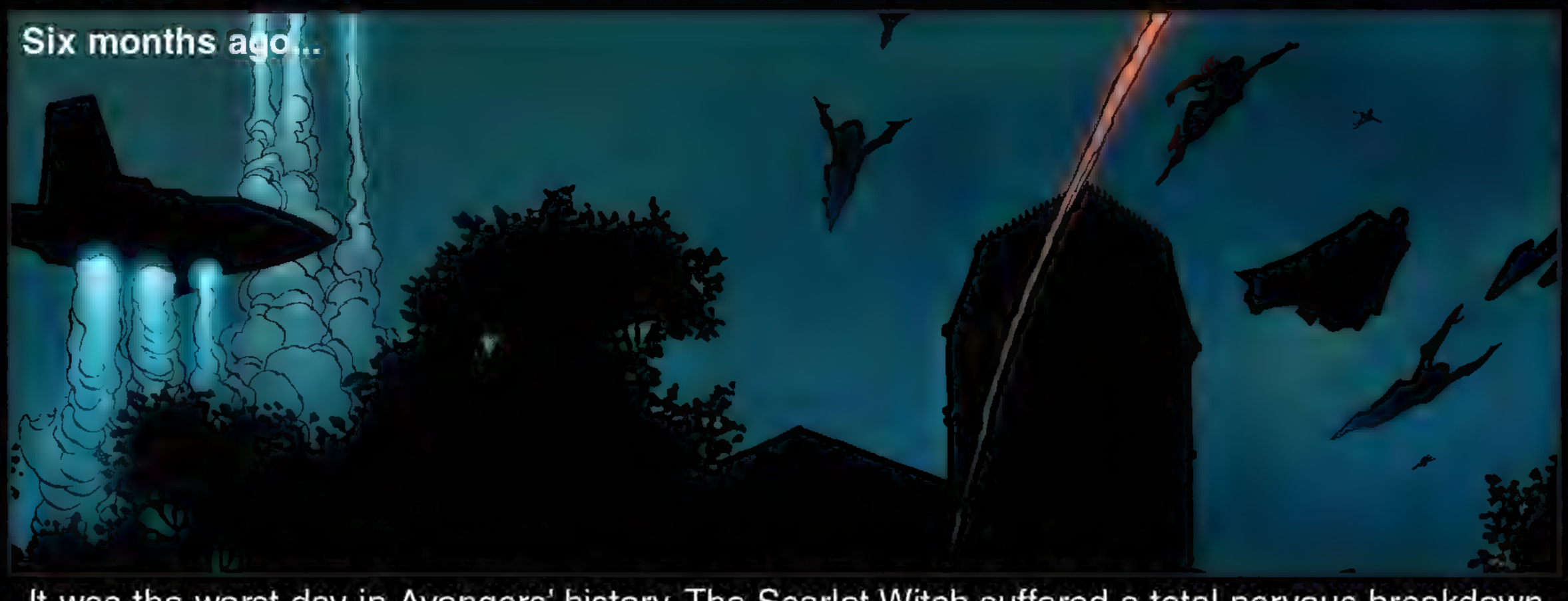
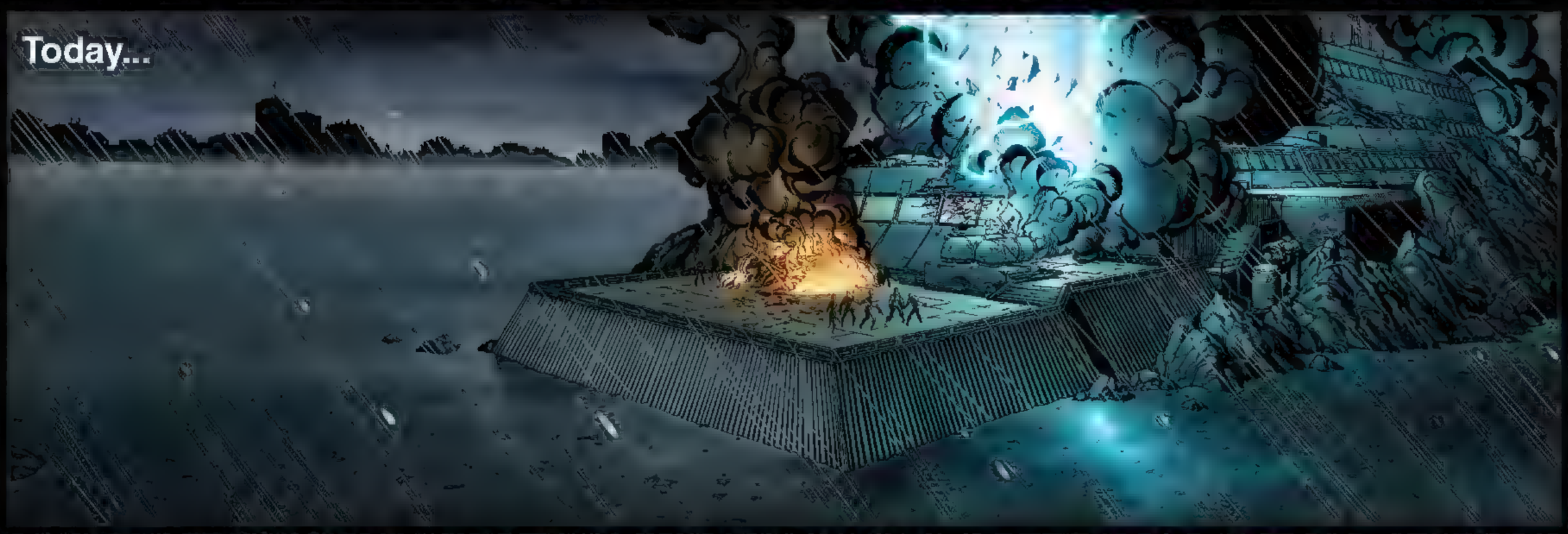
THE NEW AVENGERS®



It was the worst day in Avengers' history. The Scarlet Witch suffered a total nervous breakdown after losing control of her reality-altering powers. In the chaos created around the breakdown, many of the other Avengers were killed or hurt, both emotionally and physically. Without funding to keep going, the rest of the team quietly disbanded.



The criminal Electro is hired to infiltrate the high-tech maximum-security prison known as the Raft. He sucks all the power out of Manhattan and overloads the entire island security system, setting free eighty-seven of the most dangerous and powerful criminals on Earth. Who hired Electro to do this and who he helped escape is a mystery.

Trapped on the prison island are S.H.I.E.L.D. Agent Jessica Drew (a.k.a. Spider-Woman), blind lawyer Matt Murdock (a.k.a. Daredevil), Murdock's partner Foggy Nelson, and Luke Cage, Hero for Hire. They have come to see the most powerful super hero in the world, the Sentry, who is rotting in a solitary basement cell because he killed his wife.

When the city goes black, Captain America is already in a black ops S.H.I.E.L.D. copter, headed toward the island. He does not realize that Spider-Man has also hitched a ride. They are joined by the invincible Iron Man, and the battle seems to be going the heroes' way until the Purple Man, with his mind-controlling powers, confronts his old enemy Luke Cage…

BREAKOUT! PART THREE

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S.H.I.E.L.D. HELLICARRIER

THINK FAST, CAPTAIN AMERICA!

WHAP

THEY DIDN'T HAVE--

THEY DIDN'T HAVE SESAME SEED.

THIS IS FINE.

SO LAST NIGHT WAS ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS.

DO THEY HAVE A TOTAL ON HOW MANY ESCAPED?

FORTY-TWO AND COUNTING.

FORTY-TWO?!

FORTY TWO SUPER-VILLAINS BACK IN THE GAME. BUT WE DID KEEP FORTY-FIVE ON THE ISLAND.

42 VERSUS 45. WE OFFICIALLY DID THAT HALF-ASSED.

DO WE KNOW ***WHY*** IT HAPPENED YET?

ELECTRIC MUTANT OR THAT ELECTRO OR SOMETHING--INTEL IS GUESSING IT WAS A PRISON BREAK.

WE JUST DON'T KNOW WHO, OR WHAT, OR WHY YET.

WE'LL KNOW IN AN HOUR.

WHEN'S THE CITY GETTING POWER AGAIN?

AS SOON AS THEY DO.

FORTY-TWO.

NO VACATION FOR US ***THIS*** YEAR.

CAN WE TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT?

I THOUGHT WE WERE.

I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT WHAT WE WERE... WITNESS TO.

IT WAS CHAOS. IT WAS UGLY AND IT WAS--

LISTEN, JUST LISTEN...

TO START: LUKE CAGE.

LUKE WASN'T EVEN SUPPOSED TO BE THERE. HE CAME ALONG WITH MATTHEW MURDOCK.

NONE OF US WERE ***SUPPOSED*** TO BE THERE.

TRUE. I'M JUST PAINTING A PICTURE FOR YOU.

LUKE CAGE IS THERE. HE DIDN'T ASK FOR ANY OF THIS, AND--AND WHO DOES HE COME FACE TO FACE WITH? ZEBEDIAH KILLGRAVE.

THE PURPLE MAN.

THE PURPLE MAN. THE MAN WHO CAN MAKE YOU DO... WHATEVER HE SAYS.

THE WORST SERIAL KILLER THIS WORLD HAS EVER SEEN.

PLUS-- LUKE AND THE PURPLE MAN HAVE A HISTORY.

WE ***ALL*** HAVE A HISTORY WITH ONE OR TWO OF THOSE--

--NOT LIKE THIS.

DO ME A FAVOR. KILL ALL THESE OTHER ***"HERO"*** FRIENDS OF YOURS...

...AND THEN KILL YOURSELF.

I KNOW THAT GOD LOVES ME. THIS IS HOW I KNOW.

I FINALLY AM SHOWN A WAY OUT OF THIS HELLISH PRISON, AND ***YOU*** ARE THERE TO GREET ME.

I KNOW GOD WANTS THIS TO HAPPEN, AND--AND I DON'T EVEN ***BELIEVE*** IN GOD.

I PROMISE YOU THIS.

I PROMISE I WILL TAKE ***VERY*** GOOD CARE OF OUR DARLING JESSICA JONES.

AND YOUR BASTARD BABY CHILD SHE IS CARRYING.

KILLGRAVE?

YES, MISTER CAGE?

YOUR POWERS-- YOUR MIND CONTROL--

THEY DRUGGED YOU ALL TO HELL WHEN THEY LOCKED YOU IN HERE.

YOUR POWERS DON'T WORK RIGHT NOW.

WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO ME AND MY LIFE!
YOU THREATEN MY KID?
YOU SAY THAT TO MY FACE?!
ARRGGH!
FLUMP

CAGE!
ENOUGH.
OKAY. OKAY.
GOOD MAN.
THANKS FOR THAT.
GENTLEMEN, IF I WERE YOU, I WOULD GET BACK IN YOUR CELLS!
YOU MEAN THAT'S ALL WE HAD TO SAY?
OKAY, OKAY, ALL RIGHT! I GIVE!
OK, LETS WRAP THIS UP AND CALL IT A NIGHT!
DO YOU SEE, TONY? DO YOU SEE WHAT I AM GETTING AT?
YOU KNOW WHAT TONIGHT REMINDED ME OF?
A REALLY BAD RECURRING NIGHTMARE?
IT REMINDED ME OF THE STORY OF HOW THE AVENGERS FIRST GOT TOGETHER.

AN INSANELY DANGEROUS, OUT-OF-CONTROL SITUATION THAT NO *ONE* OF US COULD HAVE EVER HANDLED ALONE.

BUT THE *GROUP*...

A GROUP ASSEMBLED BY-- BY WHAT? BY FATE.

IS THERE ANY OTHER WORD FOR IT?

A GROUP OF EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE...

...PEOPLE YOU WOULD NEVER *THINK* TO PUT IN A ROOM TOGETHER--

--PEOPLE WILLING TO TOSS ASIDE HOW MUCH THEY PERSONALLY HAVE ON THE LINE.

PEOPLE INSTINCTIVELY DOING WHAT THEY DO BEST.

GIVING NO PAUSE TO THE GRAVITY OF THE FIGHT IN FRONT OF THEM.

AND JUST WHEN YOU WEREN'T SURE WHICH WAY THE FIGHT WOULD GO...

...THE TEAM COMES TOGETHER.

AND IT'S DONE.

YOU WANT TO ASSEMBLE A NEW TEAM OF AVENGERS?

I'M SAYING THAT THE NEW TEAM ALREADY ASSEMBLED ITSELF.

IT'S-- IT'S OVER, STEVE. IT'S--

JUST LIKE THE ORIGINAL... THIS TEAM CAME TOGETHER ON ITS OWN.

STEVE--

AND NOW THERE'S THINGS THAT NEED TO BE DONE. 42 OF THEM AND COUNTING. AND WE NEED THE TEAM TOGETHER TO DO IT.

STEVE, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW THESE PEOPLE.

YES, WE DO.

WHEN WE CLOSED THE MANSION...

LISTEN--THERE'S THIS-- A *BALANCE* TO THE CITY, TO THE COUNTRY, THAT WE, INADVERTENTLY, BY ENDING THE AVENGERS...

...*WE* THREW THE BALANCE OUT OF WHACK.

A TEAM *NEEDS* TO BE IN PLACE.

THINGS LIKE THIS-- WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT--

THIS IS *EXACTLY* WHY THERE NEEDS TO BE AN AVENGERS.

IF THE OLD AVENGERS DON'T WANT TO, IF THEY CAN'T, THEN LET'S TRY THESE NEW ONES.

LIKE WE ALWAYS HAVE.

BUT I TOLD YOU, I CAN'T AFFORD TO REBUILD THE MANSION RIGHT NOW. I CAN'T AFFORD TO FINANCE--

SO DON'T.

NO MORE SALARY. NO MORE TECH. ALL THAT. WE NEVER NEEDED IT.

JUST A PLACE TO MEET AND--

YSK, UCH, THE POLITICS OF IT ALL--

NO MORE POLITICS. JUST US.

NO U.N. NO GOVERNMENTS.

JUST US HELPING PEOPLE THAT NEED HELP. THE BIG PROBLEMS.

YOU REALLY SHOCKED ME WITH THIS.

I KNOW.

LET ME THINK ABOUT IT.

GREAT!

I'LL GO ASSEMBLE THE TEAM.

NYC PDA
PS 108
YO, MR. PARKER. HAVE A GOOD ONE!
SUCH A SUCK UP!
SHUT UP!
OW, OW AND OW.
MR. PARKER.
NO WAY.
HOW'S THE ARM?
IT HURTS A *LOT.* HOW DID YOU FIND ME, CAP?
YOU HAVE A *S.H.I.E.L.D.* FILE.
UGH!
AND YOU LOST YOUR MASK IN THE FIGHT.
DON'T REMIND ME.
THANK GOD FOR MY AVERAGE LOOKS.
YOU DIDN'T TAKE THE DAY OFF? YOU WENT RIGHT FROM LAST NIGHT TO WORK?
KIDS NEED A TEACHER.
EVEN ONE HALLUCINATING FROM PAIN AND SLEEP DEPRIVATION.
AM I IN TROUBLE?
WHY WOULD YOU BE IN TROUBLE?
AM I?
NO.
WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* HERE?
CAME TO MAKE YOU AN OFFER.
LAST NIGHT WAS VERY INSPIRING, BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT CREATED A DIRE SITUATION.
WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO.
SO WE'RE PUTTING A NEW AVENGERS TEAM TOGETHER.
I WANT YOU.

YOU DO? WHY?

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

I'M--I'M NOT A TEAM GUY. PEOPLE *HATE* ME.

I DON'T BELONG ON A *TEAM.*

CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

HOW IS THAT WORKING OUT FOR YOU?

THE "*NOT BEING A TEAM GUY*" THING?

WELL...

MARK T. + MICHELLE O.

EVERY TIME I HAVE FOUGHT ALONG-SIDE YOU...I HAVE BEEN AMAZED.

REALLY?

COME WITH ME ON THIS.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, LEAVE. BUT, FOR ME, GIVE IT A A SHOT.

BUT IF I DON'T LIKE IT?

GOOD MAN.

OW.

SORRY.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SAYING YES TO THIS. WHO CAN SAY NO TO YOU?

GOOD MAN.

WELL, HONESTLY, I COULD REALLY USE THE MONEY.

OH, THERE'S NO MORE MONEY.

UGH, THAT IS SO ME IT'S NOT EVEN FUNNY.

YOU, SIR, GET A HUG!

JESSICA JONES.

LUKE TOLD ME WHAT YOU DID FOR HIM LAST NIGHT.

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.

THANK YOU.

IS LUKE HERE?

HE'S ASLEEP. HE'S BEEN ASLEEP ALL DAY.

IT WAS QUITE A NIGHT.

HOW'S THE BABY?

SHE'S STILL IN THERE.

IT'S A GIRL?

I THINK SO, YES. DOCTOR SAID WE MAY HAVE A SUPER-BABY LIKE THE FANTASTIC--

WOW.

YEAH.

GET YOUR HANDS OFF MY WOMAN.

MORNING, MR. CAGE.

WHAT TIME IS IT?

IT'S 4 IN THE AFTERNOON.

WHAT'S GOING ON? D'I DO SOMETHING WRONG?

I CAME HERE TO ASK YOU TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NEW AVENGERS.

WHO ELSE YOU ASKIN'?
EVERYONE FROM LAST NIGHT.
WE *DID* KICK ASS.
MY POINT.
WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT? I'M GOING TO TELL YOU--
$%^& LIKE THIS, GROUPS AND TEAMS AND WHATNOT, NEVER EVEN OCCURRED TO ME TO BOTHER WITH IT.
BUT...
I SURE WOULDN'T MIND MY LITTLE GIRL GROWING UP AND HEARING HER DAD WAS AN AVENGER ONCE UPON A TIME.
WOULDN'T MIND THAT AT ALL.
OKAY. SURE.
WOW.
GREAT.
BUT LISTEN, I'M GOING TO WANT TO BE HEARD.
THERE'S THINGS I'M GOING TO WANT A GROUP LIKE THIS TO TRY-- NEW WAYS OF DOING THINGS.
I WANT-- I WANT TO BE HEARD.
DONE.
AND BY THE WAY...

"...NO WAY IN HELL DOES MATT MURDOCK SAY YES TO THIS."

NO.

EVERYONE ELSE HAS SAID YES.

WHEN YOU INVITED ME TO BE PART OF THE OLD AVENGERS-- I TOLD YOU:

MY LIFE AS DAREDEVIL IS A ***DISASTER*** RIGHT NOW. I'VE BEEN OUTED IN THE PRESS--

I KNOW.

AND I DON'T GET THE FREE PASS IN THE MEDIA YOU DO.

I'M IN A LOT OF TROUBLE. ALL OF WHICH I ***CAN*** AND ***WILL*** FIGHT.

BUT, AND THIS IS MY POINT, I WOULD NEVER, EVER, ***EVER*** KNOWINGLY CREATE A SITUATION THAT WOULD PUT YOU AND YOUR REPUTATIONS ON THE LINE.

AND I APPRECIATE THAT ***YOU*** DON'T CARE--BUT I DO.

I HAVE TO RESPECTFULLY DECLINE.

AND TRUTH TOLD, I CAN'T EVEN ***IMAGINE*** WHEN I'D BE ABLE TO FIND THE TIME.

SOMETIMES I LOOK AT ALL THE THINGS ***PETER PARKER*** DOES IN A MONTH, AND I HAVE NO IDEA HOW HE GETS IT ALL DONE.

OH.

OH, NO...

DO YOU KNOW WHO PETER PARKER IS?

YES. HE'S ON THE TEAM.

PLEASE DON'T TELL HIM I SLIPPED JUST THERE AND USED HIS REAL NAME.

JUST DO ME A FAVOR AND THINK ABOUT IT.

YOU SERIOUS?

CACKNK

YES.

ME?

YES.

WOW.

YOU IN?

I GOT YANKED OFF MY *S.H.I.E.L.D.* ASSIGNMENT.

I KNOW.

"TOTAL ASSIGNMENT FAILURE."

SEEMS THEY THINK I DID AN AWFULLY BAD JOB KEEPING THE RAFT INTACT AND SECURE.

AND THAT THE CIVILIANS IN MY CARE WERE PUT IN DANGER.

WASN'T YOUR FAULT.

WHOSE FAULT *WAS* IT?

FIRST THING ON MY "TO DO" LIST.

I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO GET DECOMMISSIONED, KICKED OUT OF *S.H.I.E.L.D.*

THOUGHT FOR SURE.

YOU THE REASON I WASN'T?

WE'LL NEED A GO-BETWEEN WITH *S.H.I.E.L.D.* EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.

THAT WILL BE YOU.

FURY'S OK WITH THIS?

I DON'T CARE WHAT NICK FURY THINKS.

YOU REBUILDING THE MANSION?

NO.

WE *ARE* GOING TO HAVE A COOL CLUB-HOUSE THOUGH, RIGHT?

STARK TOWER
EST. 2005

GOOD EVENING, SIR.

JARVIS!

YOU LOOK WELL, SIR.

I-I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

YOU OVERWHELM ME, SIR.

I TRIED TO CONTACT YOU.

I WAS ON HOLIDAY, SIR.

IT SEEMS THAT I HADN'T TAKEN ONE IN MANY YEARS.

AND MR. STARK INSISTED THAT I MAKE THE MOST OF IT.

I CAN SAY THAT, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I DO SEE THE VALUE OF WHAT OTHERS CALL...LAYING ABOUT.

I'M SO GLAD TONY CALLED YOU.

YES, IT SEEMS THAT MY UNIQUE SERVICES...

...ARE ONCE AGAIN REQUIRED.

IF YOU'LL ALL COME INTO THE MAIN ROOM...

...WELCOME TO STARK TOWER.

I HAVE BEEN BUILDING THIS BUILDING-- A GLEAMING BEACON OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE-- FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

ONE OF THE DREAM PROJECTS OF MY LIFE, AND HERE IT IS.

THE TOP THREE FLOORS HERE WERE GOING TO BE MY NEW HOME, BUT THEY'RE MY GIFT TO YOU.

THIS IS YOUR HOME IF YOU NEED IT. THIS IS WHERE WE WILL MEET. THIS IS WHERE WE WILL PLAN.

I WON'T LIE TO YOU, I'M NOT COMPLETELY SOLD ON THIS IDEA.

THIS NEW TEAM.

IT'S NOT AN ***INSULT*** TO ANY OF YOU, BUT AS YOU ARE ALL AWARE, THE ***LAST*** AVENGERS DIDN'T END WELL AND IT--WELL, IT'S STILL UNDER MY SKIN.

BUT I'VE LEARNED TO LISTEN TO CAPTAIN AMERICA'S GUT INSTINCTS.

AND IF HE WANTS THIS TEAM TO BE, THEN I WILL HELP ANY WAY I CAN.

OK!

FIRST LET'S TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT.

UM, BEFORE YOU GET INTO THAT, I HAVE, LIKE, 76 QUESTIONS?

ACTUALLY...

YOU KNOW WHAT? JESSICA DREW ISN'T HERE YET.

WE SHOULD WAIT FOR HER.

I HAD A DAY.

I HEARD.

I GOT FIRED FROM MY S.H.I.E.L.D. POST AND ASKED TO BE A NEW AVENGER ALL IN ONE DAY.

THAT'S A HELL OF A DAY.

YOU PROMISE YOU GUYS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT HAPPENED ON THE RAFT?

THAT WAS NOT US.

'CAUSE I ALMOST DIED LAST NIGHT--THREE DIFFERENT TIMES...

IF WE WANTED TO KILL YOU--

NICE. THANKS.

THIS NEW SITUATION IS *VERY* INTERESTING.

I'M GOING TO BE AN AVENGER. WHO WOULD'A THOUGHT?

SAME DEAL AS BEFORE?

UH-UH. NO. NO.

THIS IS GOING TO *COST* YOU.

THIS IS AN *ENTIRELY* DIFFERENT SITUATION.

YOU WANT ME TO REPORT BACK TO YOU ON THIS *AND* ON S.H.I.E.L.D.?

THAT'S GOING TO COST YOU.

ALL RIGHT, HOW MUCH?

TO BE CONTINUED...

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

Before we kick off this installment of "Avengers Assemble," I'd like to take two seconds to acknowledge that the comics industry lost its grandfather this past week as of this writing. Will Eisner died on January 3, 2005. For those of you who don't know his work, next time you're in your local comic shop, treat yourself to his original graphic novel, *Minor Miracles* or his first volume of *The Spirit*, potentially THE MOST INFLUENTIAL strip in all of comics history. These were genius at the time of their printing, and there isn't a single writer or artist working in comics today who hasn't been influenced by Will's gifts to the craft.

And now, on to your letters. We've been swamped by fan mail in the two days since NEW AVENGERS #2 hit the stands, and it's still piling up. Here's a healthy first dose…

NEW AVENGERS,

I just got through reading issue #2 of the NEW AVENGERS, and I hate to bite off the McDonald's commercial, but…I'm Lovin' It! The artwork is great, naw, scratch that, the artwork is awesome, it's some of the best I have seen in a long time, and the story is the !#*$&*! Bendis, Finch, Miki, D'Armata, y'all some bad boys, for real! I am a firm believer that I should not have to sacrifice story for art, or art for story. In the NEW AVENGERS, I have found both! I read the letters page of "Avengers Assembled" and there are a lot of people hatin' on "Avengers Disassembled" and this new piece of cool y'all call the NEW AVENGERS. Those guys have got to quit drinking that Hatorade and eatin' nostalgia sandwiches!

I can understand them complaining if they want the same Gerber's baby food fed to them over and over again without any change in the taste, texture, or smell each month! I can understand their crying because they want their comics simple, with the good guys always winning and never losing! But this NEW AVENGERS ain't baby food, the NEW AVENGERS has grown up, and is now feeding its fans steak and potatoes! The characters are not new to the super hero biz, but a little new to the famed pages of THE AVENGERS. These heroes have evolved through their experiences, their wins, and, yes, their losses. For a long time I didn't read the "super heroes in tights" comics because there were no surprises and the heroes made it look easy. I bet nobody reading issue #2 of the NEW AVENGERS would have thought they'd see Spidey get that arm broke by Jigsaw! Oh my god, that was the !@#$*! But true to form, Spidey fought through the pain, and kept going. That's why we love him! Ain't nothin' comin' easy in the pages of the NEW AVENGERS and that's great! This new style ain't no sippin' tea! You have to guzzle this cup of Kool-Aid, and let it burn as it goes down. It's good stuff!

I realize after reading some of the comments by others that they feel let down and may not read AVENGERS anymore. Well, so sad, so sorry, see ya! Bendis and crew, you may lose a couple of fans, but if you guys refuse to bend to the crocodile tears of those who wish to hold back the greatness I have read and seen so far in the NEW AVENGERS and you continue to produce the same style of artwork and writing on each page, then don't worry, you picked up a new fan, and I'm sure there are many more out there that are tasting the AVENGERS again for the first time like a bowl of Kellogg's Cornflakes and totally lovin' IT!

Make mine Marvel and the NEW AVENGERS!

Chad Jones
Aurora, CO

Okay, that was WAY too enthusiastic not to print. Thanks for chiming in, Chad, and I've already contacted McDonald's headquarters. Your check should be arriving soon.

Dear Avengers Crew,

I've just read NEW AVENGERS #2, and in particular, the letters page. Seems the changes you all have made have quite a few people upset, and I just wanted to add my two cents. I am new to the series, in fact issue #500 of the AVENGERS was the first I've read, and only because the guy at the comics store insisted I get it. Perhaps it's because I had no preconceived notions of these characters' relationships, but I found the epic story fascinating and was instantly hooked. Emotional and beautifully told, if perhaps a bit disjointed. So many seem to be complaining about the way it ended, but I think it's good to shake things up once in a while to keep things fresh and interesting. Certainly after 500 issues that's going to be hard to do! But I applaud your bravery and confidence, and I think all the dissapointment is going to fade in light of the first NEW AVENGERS story. Talk about an entrance! Issues #1 and #2 have both left me gasping for breath! Wow. The new issue can't possibly come fast enough—seeing how this great new team unfolds will be a joy. Great, great work, guys. You've earned a loyal reader.

Zina Brown
Brooklyn, NY

Now this is more like it!

Greetings, Marvel,

Of all the years collecting comics, I've never felt the need to write a letter until now. I just finished NEW AVENGERS #2 and I think it's probably the finest single issue super hero comic I have ever read. Giving Mr. Bendis this series was a paramount idea in a "House of Ideas." I hope that this will give some of the fans with negative feelings about recent changes in the AVENGERS an excuse to look into other great titles that they might have previously overlooked. Specifically, ALIAS and THE PULSE because they have crucial information on characters like Luke Cage, the Purple Man, and their unfortunate connection. Keep up the great work and at this point if you publish Mr. Bendis' laundry list, I will buy it!

John Auble
Oceanside, CA

You know, John, it's usually my job to plug the other books. But you've clearly got a knack for it, so please don't forget that everyone should run out and pick up THE SENTRY trade paperback to find out his origin (and it's by Paul Jenkins and Jae Lee!) while supplies last. And to be as clear as possible, if you enjoy these characters and Bendis' writing, be sure to pick up SECRET WAR #s 1-3 (all currently on sale) for a look at many of these characters together for the first time! Luke Cage regularly appears in THE PULSE (on sale now!). And if you're old enough to purchase MAX titles, Jessica Drew a.k.a. Spider-Woman was last seen in the trade paperback ALIAS vol. 3 "THE UNDERNEATH" and Purple Man and Luke Cage's relationship is clearly defined in the final ALIAS trade paperback, ALIAS vol. 4 "THE SECRET ORIGIN OF JESSICA JONES" (both still available!). Okay, I'm totally shameless, I know, but if you're interested, there it is.

Dear AVENGERS ASSEMBLE:

When I read the editorial response to Raul S. Sanchez's letter, my jaw dropped. I've NEVER seen such a disrespectful response to a(n obviously) long-term fan. Could it be that the anger came because that fan's comment contained some truth to it? I myself was less than satisfied with the "Disassembled" storyline, which I found to be all steak and no sizzle (and seemingly forced, not character-driven), but was willing to give the new approach a chance. This callousness on the part of the editorial staff has caused me to rethink my open-mindedness. If you strongly disagree with the guy, don't print the letter. The response seriously lacked class, and put all readers on notice that they are disposable. We're all firmly aware now that Marvel, not the fans, owns the characters, and that they will be openly disrespected if they do not jump on board. Lots of good owning characters will do if all the fans jump ship. As I said, either ignore the letter or deal with it respectfully.

You have four months to print an apology to that reader; otherwise, I'm joining him out of disgust with editorial crassness.

Sean D. Memolo
(Via email)

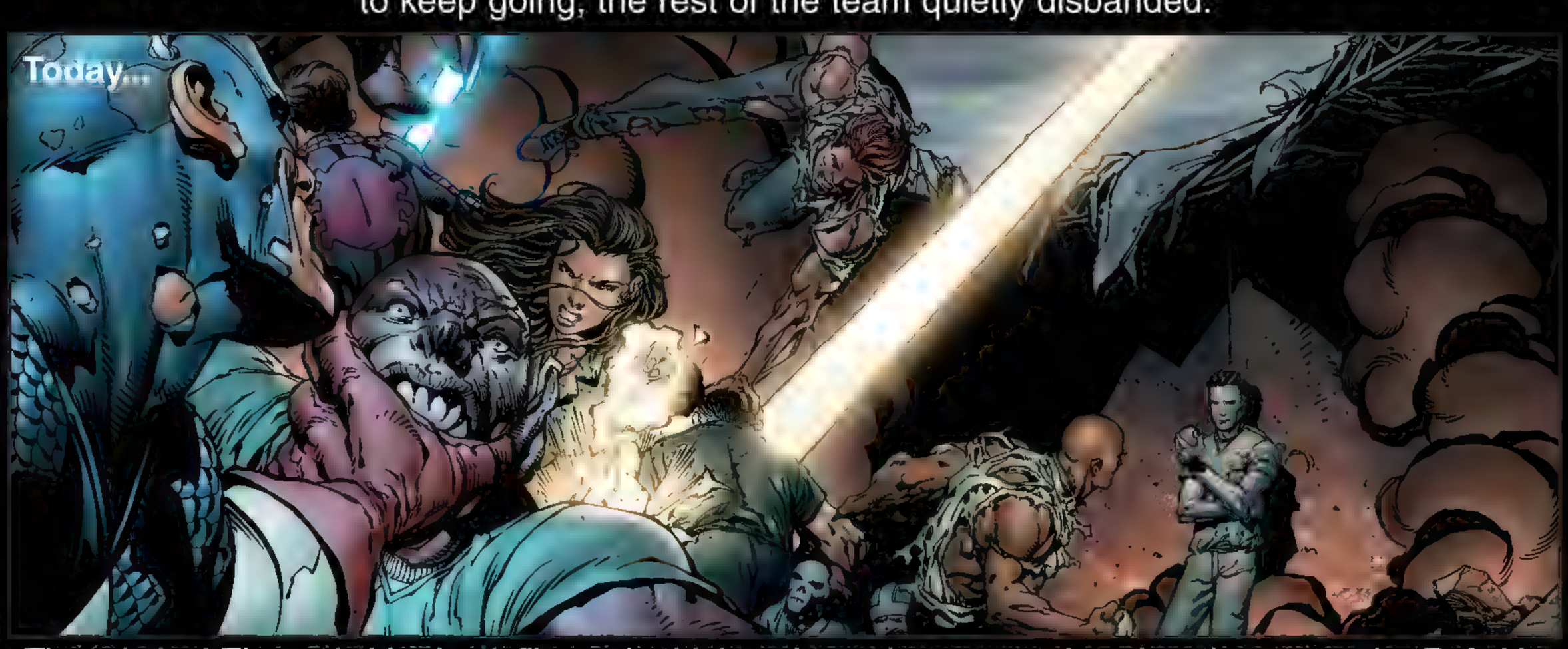
MARVEL
PSR 4

BENDIS
FINCH
MIKI
D'ARMATA

THE NEW AVENGERS®

FINCH
MIKI
fgd

It was the worst day in Avengers' history. The Scarlet Witch suffered a total nervous breakdown after losing control of her reality-altering powers. In the chaos created around the breakdown, many of the other Avengers were killed or hurt, both emotionally and physically. Without funding to keep going, the rest of the team quietly disbanded.



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Trapped on the prison island are S.H.I.E.L.D. Agent Jessica Drew (a.k.a. Spider-Woman), blind lawyer Matt Murdock (a.k.a. Daredevil), Murdock's partner Foggy Nelson, and Luke Cage, Hero for Hire. They have come to see the most powerful super hero in the world, the Sentry, who is rotting in a solitary basement cell because he killed his wife.

When the city goes black, Captain America is already in a black ops S.H.I.E.L.D. copter, headed toward the island. He does not realize that Spider-Man has also hitched a ride. They are joined by the invincible Iron Man, and the impossible battle is won.

Inspired by these events, Captain America is convinced that the New Avengers have been born. He convinces Tony Stark to help him put the team together, without all the trappings, politics and finances to which the previous Avengers were accustomed. Tony agrees, and the team is assembled. Their first mission is to find out who is responsible for the largest super-villain prison break in history.

BREAKOUT! PART FOUR

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STARK TOWER EST. 2004

WOW.

JESSICA DREW.

WELCOME TO THE NEW AVENGERS.

YOU'RE JUST IN TIME.

AGENT HILL. THIS IS--

SPECIAL AGENT HILL *AND* ACTING DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D. AND WHATEVER THIS IS...I SAY *NO.*

WE HAVE THE SENTRY IN CUSTODY. WE HAVE THE OTHER RAFT PRISONERS IN LOCKDOWN.

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT ON OUR--

MARIA HILL, S.H.I.E.L.D. DEPUTY DIRECTOR
SUPER POWER DIVISION CLASS 3
BROADCASTING LOCATION:
S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER ALPHA WAR ROOM
BROADCAST SCRAMBLED/DESCRAMBLE BY
START CODETEK 60 LOCATION 57/3 BY 65.2

WE HAVE PUT A NEW AVENGERS TEAM TOGETHER.

YOU ARE LOOKING AT THE CORE GROUP. I AM ASSUMING FULL RESPON--

YEAH, UM, I'M GOING TO HANG UP ON YOU NOW. NOT OUT OF DISRESPECT, BUT BECAUSE I HAVE *NO* TIME FOR THIS TODAY.

THIS IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF CRAP THAT PUT NICK FURY WHERE HE IS, AND I'M TELLING YOU *THIS* IS *NOT* HAPPENING.

WHERE'S NICK FURY?

AGENT HILL. THIS IS STEVE ROGERS, CAPTAIN AMERICA. DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO MY S.H.I.E.L.D. FILE?

YES, I DO, CAPTAIN.

THEN YOU CAN VERIFY FOR YOURSELF THAT I HAVE FULL CHAMPION LICENSE.

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.

OH NO. I AM *NOT* JOINING THE CHAMPIONS.

IT MEANS, MY FRIEND, THAT I HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ASSEMBLE ANY *TEAM* I SEE FIT TO GO ON ANY *MISSION* I SEE FIT.

YEAH? I HAVE CLONES.

IT MEANS WE DON'T NEED S.H.I.E.L.D. PERMISSION TO PUT THE AVENGERS BACK TOGETHER.

AND NO OFFENSE TO YOU, AGENT HILL, BUT CONSIDERING THAT S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS SOME 40-ODD MAJOR POWERED THREATS...

...WHO *WERE*, JUST LAST NIGHT, UNDER S.H.I.E.L.D. GUARD...

...NOW RUNNING LOOSE IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK AND BEYOND...

...I WOULD THINK THAT YOU WOULD *WELCOME* OUR EXPERTISE.

NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN OUTSIDE HELP. SO, THANK--

AGAIN, YOU SEEM TO BE MISSING THE POINT OF THE CONVERSATION.

JESSICA DREW IS AN ACTIVE AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. LEVEL SEVEN, AND NOW AN ACTIVE AVENGER AS WELL.

SHE HAS FULL ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE ABOUT WHAT WENT ON AT THE RAFT LAST NIGHT.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO DO IS WORK *WITH* YOU AND GET THIS DONE QUICKLY.

I'M SORRY IF YOU WERE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE ASKING PERMISSION.

CAN YOU TELL US WHERE YOU ARE IN THE INVESTIGATION?

WE REALLY *WOULD* LIKE TO HELP.

CAPTAIN, I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU PRIVATELY.

CERTAINLY.

ALL RIGHT.

LOOKS LIKE I'M A SUPER HERO AGAIN.

WELL, AGENT DREW... IN THE MOST P.C., NON-THREATENING, PROFESSIONAL WAY I'D LIKE TO SAY...

EXACTLY.

DAMN, GIRL.

THANKS, GUYS.

HOW'S YOUR ARM, PETE...?

OH YEAH, YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER.

KINDA.

SPIDER-MAN, SPIDER-WOMAN--- YOU GUYS RELATED?

NO.

YOU GIVE HER HER POWERS OR SOMETHING?

NO. SHE'S TOTALLY UNRELATED TO ME IN ANY WAY.

SO SHE RIPPED OFF YOUR NAME?

EXACTLY.

HEY!

YOU SAID IT WAS OKAY.

I DIDN'T SAY YOU COULD *LEND IT OUT.* THERE'S, LIKE, *TEN* OF YOU NOW.

THERE'S *THREE.* AND THEY ARE RIPPING *ME* OFF.

AND I'M NOT SEEING A DIME.

A DIME OF WHAT?

JUST SAYIN'.

I CAN'T TELL IF YOU'RE JOKING.

YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST WOMAN TO SAY THAT TO ME.

AND WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER GUY WHO WAS THERE LAST NIGHT? THE GOLDEN GUY?

YEAH, I FORGOT ABOUT HIM. I THOUGHT IT WAS THOR FOR A SECOND THERE.

IT'S THE SENTRY. SAVED MY LIFE TWICE LAST NIGHT.

THE SENTRY IS A PRETTY COMPLICATED STORY.

WE'RE GOING TO DEAL WITH *THAT* RIGHT AFTER THE EMERGENCY AT HAND.

SO DO WE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT?

BECAUSE THAT, Y'KNOW, SUCKED.

YES. WELL, THERE WAS A PRISON BREAK.

NO!

AT FIRST THEY *THOUGHT* IT WAS JUST A SYSTEM FAILURE THAT TURNED INTO A RIOT, BUT IT WASN'T. IT *WAS* A PRISON BREAK.

AN ASSAULT ON THE ISLAND. SPECIFICALLY TO BREAK OUT ONE INMATE.

WHO?

WE DON'T KNOW YET. NO ONE IS TALKING.

I JUST RECEIVED FOLDERS AND FOLDERS OF DATA FROM S.H.I.E.L.D.

DIRECTOR HILL COOL WITH EVERYTHING?

THAT'S IT.

WE'LL SEE.

SYSTEM PATCH IN.

DISPLAY.

OH MAN, IS THIS--

THIS IS WHO ESCAPED.

OH MY GOD... THESE ARE THE ONES THAT *ESCAPED?*

AND ONE OF THESE WAS THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE. HE'S OUR PRIMARY TARGET.

HOW MANY IS THIS?

FORTY-TWO.

OH MY GOD.

I HAVE A SMALL VIDEO FILE.

S.H.I.E.L.D. WAS ABLE TO UNCOVER A SMALL BIT OF DIGITAL SECURITY CAMERA FOOTAGE FROM THE WRECKAGE.

LET'S TAKE A LOOK.

WHAT THE HELL ARE WE LOOKING AT?

DUNNO.

WAIT! FREEZE IT!

CAN YOU FREEZE IT?

OH YEAH, THAT'S HIM.

MAX DILLON.

ELECTRO.

I'D KNOW THAT BLURRY SHOULDER ANYWHERE.

THAT'S SO EMBARRASSING.
IT'S ONE OF *MY* BAD GUYS.
I KNEW SOMEHOW THIS WOULD BE MY FAULT.
ONLY IN YOUR WARPED BRAIN.
WELL, YEAH.
OPEN SERVER NINE. PASSWORD: MASQUE. MAXWELL DILLON.
IS IT MAX? MAXWELL?
DON'T KNOW.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
FINDING HIM.
IF HE MADE ANY ELECTRONIC MONEY TRANSFERS OR-- BOSTON.
BOSTON, WHAT?
HE'S IN BOSTON.
CAN YOU PULL UP HIS RAP SHEET?
YEAH. HERE.
AN HOUR AGO HE TRANSFERRED A LOT OF MONEY FROM A SWISS ACCOUNT TO AN ACCOUNT IN BOSTON, AND THEN TOOK IT OUT OF A NATIONAL BANK.
WHAT'S A LOT OF MONEY?
TO ME OR TO YOU?
WHAT'S IN BOSTON?
HE'S EATEN AT THE SAME RESTAURANT EVERY NIGHT FOR THE LAST THREE WEEKS.
WE'RE GOING TO BOSTON.
IT'S A WOMAN.
SEE? THIS IS HIS PHONE CALL RECORD FROM HIS LAST PRISON STAY.
ONE PERSON-- EVERY WEEK.
MIA SALEM. WAITRESS. THE BROWN DERBY.
BEACON STREET. BOSTON.
THAT'S THE RESTAURANT.
I'VE BEEN AN AVENGER TEN MINUTES, I ALREADY NEED TO LIE DOWN.
HOW? WE ALL GETTING ARMOR?
COME.

NOW THAT'S A...

(WHAT IS IT?)

QUINJET.

FOR SOMEONE NOT SO SURE ABOUT THIS--

I DESIGNED IT MONTHS AGO AND HAD THREE IN BETA TESTING WHEN THE AVENGERS BROKE UP.

NEVER GOT TO DEBUT IT.

UH-HUH.

!CAUTION!

WOW.

HEY, IS MATT MUR-- IS--IS DAREDEVIL GOING TO JOIN US? HE WAS THERE LAST NIGHT AND--

NOT AT THE MOMENT.

I'M STILL WORKING ON IT.

SEAT BELTS.

YES, MOM.

ON A QUIET DAY, I'LL TEACH YOU GUYS HOW TO FLY THIS THING. IT'S EASIER THAN IT LOOKS.

SO WE *ARE* PLANNING ON HAVING QUIET DAYS?

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR--BECAUSE I HAVEN'T HAD ONE SINCE I WAS ELEVEN.

OH MY GOD...

MIA, LET'S--
WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* HERE, MAX?
LET'S GO.
WHAT?
WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!
WHAT ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT?
PINK'S
YOU AND ME. GETTING ON A PRIVATE PLANE AND GETTING THE HELL OUT OF HERE.
FOR GOOD. RIGHT NOW.
WHAT?
I--I PROMISED YOU. I PROMISED YOU I'D GET YOU OUT OF ALL THIS CRAP, AND I DID.
THING IS-- WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO GET INTO ONE OF THESE THINGS YOU LIKE TO GET INTO RIGHT NOW. WE CAN DO IT ON THE PLANE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN TWO WEEKS. NO PHONE CALL. NO--
HEY, SHUT IT. OK? LISTEN.
I CAME INTO A LOAD OF DOUGH, AND ME AND YOU, RIGHT NOW, CAN BE SITTING ON A BEACH IN WAKANDA SIPPIN' COCONUT DRINKS WITH THINGS IN THEM.
RIGHT NOW. LET'S GO.
WHAT DID YOU *DO?*
WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT ON THE PLANE.
OH, MY GOD!! YOU--YOU DID THAT THING IN NEW YORK LAST NIGHT.
SHUT UP!
THE ENTIRE CITY WAS--
ARE YOU COMING OR NOT?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU.
I CAN'T--

COMIC

ZZKRRAAKAA

CRAP!

HEY, MAX.

ZZKRRAAKAA

OH NO...
OH NONONO NONO...
I WOULDN'T DO THAT.
YEAH.
WE DID OUR HOMEWORK.
YOU'RE DONE.
ARGH!
ZZATTT
WHO HIRED YOU?
WHO DID YOU TAKE?
I--I WANT MY LAWYER.
MAX!
HEY, WHEN YOU USED TO FIGHT HIM, HOW'D YOU DO IT?
WELL, I'D WEB MY HANDS INTO MITTS AND POUND THE CRAP OUT OF HIM.
DO ME UP.

THWIP

THWAP

OPEN THE BUBBLE.

HE WAS JUST SUPPOSED TO BLURT OUT A NAME, NOT FAINT LIKE A WUSS.

GET THESE OFF.

THEY DON'T COME OFF.

WHAT?

ABOUT AN HOUR.

WHAT?

YOU *SAID* WEB YOUR HANDS.

THIS IS S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT DREW.

WE HAVE MAX DILLON CONTAINED. NEED A SWEEP UP AND CONTAINMENT CREW.

TRIANGULATE MY LOCATION AND LOCK.

WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW.

HOW DO WE WAKE HIM UP WITHOUT RISKING A BIG FIGHT?

YEAH, PLUS, HE CAN ESCAPE VIA THE CITY'S ELECTRIC GRID.

YOU KNOW WHAT?

I THINK I KNOW HOW TO FIND OUT WHO HE BROKE OUT OF JAIL.

BUT WE'LL NEED TO STOP BY MY HOUSE.

RYKER'S ISLAND PENITENTIARY

GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN... AND LADY.

MOST OF YOU ARE DRUGGED INTO A PEACEFUL HAZE AND YOU HAVE YOUR POWER-DRAINING DOGGIE COLLARS ON WHILE WE REBUILD YOUR CELLS FOR YOU--

--BUT I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME.

BLOCK C

DOES ANYBODY WANT TO TELL ME WHO ELECTRO BROKE OUT OF THE RAFT LAST NIGHT?

ALL I NEED IS A NAME.

YEAH, FIGURED. HONOR AMONG $%^#ERS.

ANYWAY, TONIGHT, FOR DINNER, YOU WILL BE HAVING A MEATLOAF-ESQUE MAIN COURSE AND A PUREED POTATO SUBSTANCE, MUCH LIKE YOU WILL BE HAVING EVERY DAY FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES.

THIS IS A FRESH BOX OF APPLE CRUMB CAKE ENTENMANN'S DONUTS. THEY ARE AWESOME.

I BOUGHT THEM FOR MYSELF, BUT NOW THAT I'M BACK IN THE TIGHTS--

--THIS IS A BIG NO NO.

SO, TO THE FIRST PERSON THAT TELLS ME WHO ELECTRO TOOK--

KARL LYKOS!

KARL LYKOS!

KARL LYKOS! PLEASE! PLEASE GIMME A DONUT!

KARL LYKOS!

KARL LYKOS!

KARL LYKOS!

OH NO...

WHO?

KARL LYKOS
S.H.I.E.L.D. FILE NO. 8589258972-563
FILE CODE: R RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED?
THE FILE IS LOCKED.
CAN YOU OPEN IT?

NO.
I THOUGHT YOU HAD CLEARANCES AND--
I DO. BUT I DON'T HAVE *THAT* KIND OF ACCESS. NOT MANY PEOPLE DO.
CAP?
SOMETHING'S GOING ON.
YEAH.

CALL YOUR BOSS. GET HER TO OPEN IT.
UH, I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD.
SOMEONE LOCKED THIS FILE. IF WE START CALLING AROUND--
IT'LL JUST ALERT THEM THAT WE'RE ONTO THEM.

OK. THEN, WHO THE HELL IS KARL LYKOS?
HE'S A MUTANT.
I'VE HAD THE HONOR OF BEING SMACKED AROUND BY HIM.
HE CAN SUCK ENERGY OR--OR SUCK OUT YOUR POWERS OR SOMETHING. SOMETHING WITH SUCKING.
AND WHEN HE OVERDOES IT, HE TURNS INTO THIS GIANT GREEN OL' JURASSIC PARK THING.

LIKE A DINOSAUR.
A VAMPIRE DINOSAUR.
VAMPIRE *OR* DINOSAUR WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH.
BUT THIS GUY IS *BOTH.* WHICH, REALLY...IS JUST SHOWING OFF.
WHAT DOES HE CALL HIMSELF? SAGEY--OR SAGGY--
SAURON.
SAURON.
AND HE BROKE HIMSELF OUT OF JAIL AND NOW HIS SECRET FILES ARE LOCKED.
(LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE.)
HOLD ON...
HUH.
YOU SEE THIS?

WHAT IS IT?
IT'S THE S.H.I.E.L.D. OUTPOST OUTSIDE THE SAVAGE LAND.
IT'S LOCKED TOO?
IT'S OFF LINE. OUTPOSTS *NEVER* GO OFF LINE.
THE SAVAGE LAND?
THAT'S WHERE LYKOS LIVES.
TONY, YOU READING ALL OF THIS?
IS THIS A REAL PLACE?
SETTING COURSE.
OY VEY.
CAN I BORROW A PHONE? I GOTTA CALL MY WIFE AND TELL HER I'M OFF TO ANTARCTICA TO GET KILLED IN THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT.
WHAT?
JUST SAY "PHONE" AND THEN THE NUMBER.
THAT'S CREEPY.
JUST TALK.
IT'S THE FUTURE.

SO, IN THIS LAND THAT TIME FORGOT SOMEWHERE IN ANTARCTICA...

...WHAT'VE WE GOT TO LOOK FORWARD TO?

ALL KINDS OF MUTATES AND DINOSAURS AND BIG CHEETAHS AND A SURPRISING AMOUNT OF ACCEPTABLE NUDITY.

ARE YOU #$%$ING ME?

NO.

BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER--WE PROBABLY WON'T SURVIVE THE CRASH.

WHAT CRASH?

YOU DON'T GO TO THE SAVAGE LAND WITHOUT CRASHING.

YOU'VE NEVER BEEN THERE WITH ME DRIVING.

UH-HUH...

SEAT BELTS.

YEAH, THAT'LL HELP.

ALMOST THERE...

ALMOST THERE...

SEE?

I STAND CORRECTED.

SMASH

RRAAAGGHHRFF!

SPLIT UP!

RUN FOR THE TREES!

JEEZ!

WHAT THE HELL?

WOOF! SO GLAD I SIGNED ON.

WHAT?

TO BE CONTINUED...

MARVEL
PSR 5

BENDIS
FINCH
MIKI
D'ARMATA

THE NEW AVENGERS®

FINCH
DANNY MIKI
04 fgd

It was the worst day in Avengers' history. The Scarlet Witch suffered a total nervous breakdown after losing control of her reality-altering powers. In the chaos created around the breakdown, many of the other Avengers were killed or hurt, both emotionally and physically. Without funding to keep going, the rest of the team quietly disbanded.

The criminal Electro is hired to infiltrate the high-tech maximum-security prison known as the Raft. He sucks all the power out of Manhattan and overloads the entire island security system, setting free eighty-seven of the most dangerous and powerful criminals on Earth.

Trapped on this prison island are S.H.I.E.L.D. Agent Jessica Drew (a.k.a. Spider-Woman), blind lawyer Matt Murdock (a.k.a. Daredevil), Murdock's partner Foggy Nelson, and Luke Cage, Hero for Hire. They have come to see the most powerful super hero in the world, the Sentry, who is rotting in a solitary basement cell because he killed his wife.

The gathered heroes are eventually joined by Captain America, Spider-Man and Iron Man, and the impossible battle is won. Inspired by these events, Captain America convinces Tony Stark to help him put a new Avengers team together. Their first mission is to find out who is responsible for the largest super-villain prison break in history. They are eventually pointed towards Karl Lykos, also known as the psychic vampire, Sauron. The newly assembled Avengers pursue Lykos all the way to the hidden area on Antarctica known as the Savage Land.

The landing doesn't go well.

BREAKOUT! PART FIVE

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NAAARRRGGHH

HEY!

A QUINJET'S 2 X 2 SYMMETRICALLY-MOUNTED MODIFIED PRATT & WHITNEY J48-P-8A TURBOJET ENGINES DON'T EXACTLY GROW ON TREES, Y'KNOW!

AND I'M NOT MADE OF MONEY LIKE I USED TO-- ARGH!

NAAARRRGGHH

SHOULD WE--CAP? WHAT SHOULD WE DO, BECAUSE--

HE'S GOT IT.

INCOMING!

NO DUH!

WELL...

...THERE'S SOMETHING I DIDN'T THINK I WAS GOING TO DO TODAY.

LET'S GET THE OTHERS.

YEAH. THERE WAS MORE OF US A SECOND AGO.

WHERE'D LUKE AND JESSICA RUN TO?

LUKE?

WAIT... ...IS THAT--

HAARRGGH!

ZZAATTKK

FUNK

PIECE OF--!

WHOAH!

HHAARRGGHH!

HAAGH!

ZZAATTKK

SHUNK

UH... WOLVERINE?

UM...

SON OF AAARRGHH!

WOAH, WOAH!

AGH!

EVERYONE, CALM--

STABBED ME IN THE--!

--DOWN!

WHERE'D LUKE AND JESSICA RUN TO?

FUMP

YOU GUYS--

--ARE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE *THIS* ONE.

YA SLIT MY THROAT WITH MY OWN *CLAWS!*

I COULD GIVE A #$%#!! YOU CAME OUT OF NOWHERE!

HE JUMPED ME, CAP!

YA SLIT MY THROAT WITH MY OWN CLAWS!

WOLVERINE, WHAT ARE--?

YOU JUMPED *ME* AND--

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING-- ARGH!

HOLD ON, I'M STILL HEALING.

CAN BARELY TALK.

JESSICA, YOU DID THAT TO HIM?

HE CAME UP FROM BEHIND. I DIDN'T MEAN TO--

NOT TOO SHABBY.

S.H.I.E.L.D. TRAINING.

WHY'D YOU JUMP HER, MAN?

I'M BEIN' TRACKED. PUH!

I'M BEIN' FOLLOWED AND I COULDN'T TAKE NO CHANCES.

DIDN'T EXPECT Y'ALL, AND I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE EITHER OF YOUR SCENTS.

THIS PLACE IS SCREWY LIKE THAT.

RRRRR...

WHO'S FOLLOWING YOU?

WHY ARE YOU HERE, LOGAN?

YOU GUYS KNOW WHO KARL LYKOS IS?

PUH.

SOME GUY CALLS THE X-MANSION YESTERDAY TO TELL WHOEVER'LL LISTEN THAT A COUPLE OF SAVAGE LAND MUTATES CAME TO HIM AND OFFERED HIM SOME CASH TO CRACK LYKOS OUT OF JAIL.

WHO?

GUY NAMED HUDAK.

HUDAK?

I KNOW THAT NAME.

GUY WEARS SOME IDIOT CONTRAPTION--

THE SCORCHER!

YEAH.

OH, HE'S SUCH A LOAD.

WELL, GUY SAID HE'S TRYIN' TO LIVE THE STRAIGHTER AND NARROWER SINCE THAT STUFF WENT DOWN WITH FURY AND OUR LITTLE SECRET WAR.

GUY PANICKED THAT HE WAS GETTIN' SUCKED INTO NASTY AGAIN.

SO HE CALLS *US* BECAUSE THERE AIN'T NO AVENGERS AND S.H.I.E.L.D. AIN'T EXACTLY EASY TO GET ON THE PHONE.

GUY WAS PANICKED SO HE CALLS THE X-MEN.

WHEN THE RAFT GOT CRACKED INTO YESTERDAY, IT WAS *EXACTLY* WHAT THAT HUDAK GUY DESCRIBED.

I KNEW IT WAS LYKOS. I KNEW WHERE HE'D GO. AND I KNEW IT WAS TROUBLE.

SO'S I HOPPED IN A BLACKBIRD, AND HERE I AM.

WHERE'D YOU LAND?

CRASHED. BACK THAT WAY.

WHERE'RE THE X-MEN?

TEACHING CLASS. WE GOT KIDS TO LOOK AFTER.

YOU JUST CAME OUT HERE BY YOURSELF?

DONE IT A BUNCH.

TRUTH TOLD I'VE BEEN HAVIN' A BIT OF A ROUGH PATCH LATELY.

TOO MUCH CHANGE AND NOT A LOT TO SHOW FOR IT.

THOUGHT THE AIR MIGHT DO ME GOOD. AND THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT HOW THIS ALL WENT DOWN.

HOW SO?

LISTEN--I GOT SOME MUTATES ON MY TAIL FOR A GOOD SIX HOURS NOW.

I WAS KEEPIN' THEM AT ARM'S LENGTH BUT HAPPY PANTS OVER HERE BROKE MY STRIDE.

YOU PUT A KNIFE TO MY THROAT.

IT'S THE JUNGLE, SWEETY.

I WASN'T EXPECTING A BUNCH OF--

WHAT THE HELL *ARE* YOU EXACTLY?

UH...ANYONE ELSE'S SPIDER-SENSE JUST GO OFF?

HMM. THESE READINGS CAN'T BE RIGHT.

OK, HERE WE GO.

GO WHERE?

UM...

UH-OH.

YEAH.

THE HELL ARE *THEY?*

MUTATES. TOLD YA ALREADY. WHOLE PLACE IS SILLY WITH THEM.

MUTATES?

GOOGLE IT WHEN WE GET HOME.

WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?!

SCREW THAT. LET'S BLAST A HOLE THROUGH THE CROWD AND--

MY ARMOR'S DOWN.

YEAH, MY NEW CREEPY ORGANIC WEB SHOOTERS AREN'T WEBBING.

I'M SHOOTING BLANKS, TOO.

UH, GUYS, I'M...

...NOT DOING SO...

MMMMESHLEEPY.

SLEEP NOW, HUMANS.

GIVE IN TO ME. DO NOT FIGHT IT.

NNN...

WHUMP

NEFF...

YEP.

WE'RE NAKED.

THEY COULDN'T LEAVE OUR UNDERWEAR ON?

I WASN'T WEARING ANY.

WHY WOULDN'T YOU BE WEARING UNDERWEAR?

I CHAFE.

I WANT OFF THE TEAM.

YO, FREAKS! WHAT'S THE PLAN FOR THE AFTERNOON?

SERIOUSLY! ISN'T ANYONE GOING TO YAMMER ON WITH THE BIG, EVIL PLAN.

MAY I ASK, HOW DID YOU GET MY ARMOR OFF WITHOUT SETTING OFF THE BOOBY TRAPS?

YOU MIGHT WANT TO GET THAT HEAD CHECKED.

IT LOOKS *SWOLLEN.*

WELCOME BACK TO THE SAVAGE LAND, SPIDER-PERSON. I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING MY EXPERIMENTS ON YOUR UNIQUE BIOLOGY.

OH, AND I'VE READ YOUR PAPERS, MR. STARK. YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF WHAT YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED WITH YOUR LIMITED ABILITIES.

YOU EVER NOTICE HOW OBNOXIOUS "EVOLVED" PEOPLE ARE?

I WANT TO SPEAK TO KARL LYKOS.

OKAY.
SPEAK.
SURRENDER.
PROBABLY NOT GOING TO DO *THAT.*
SO WHAT BRINGS SUCH A MOTLEY GANG OF COSTUMES HERE TO FIND *ME?*
FORTY-FOUR DANGEROUS CRIMINALS, MAJOR THREATS, YOUR FELLOW INMATES, ESCAPED FROM PRISON TO COVER YOUR GETAWAY.
S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS WITH FAMILIES LOST THEIR LIVES.
BECAUSE OF *YOU,* MORE INNOCENT PEOPLE'S LIVES ARE NOW IN DANGER.
AND EVERY DEATH IS ON YOUR HEAD.
WE'RE HERE TO AVENGE THEM.
FORTY-FOUR? WELL...
...I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.
IT'S THE SURFACE WORLD. I PERSONALLY DON'T CARE. THEY CERTAINLY DON'T CARE ABOUT US...
WELL, YOU *HAD* TO KNOW THEY WERE GOING TO COME AFTER US FOR IT.
ACTUALLY WE WERE TOLD *NO ONE* WOULD.
THAT WAS THE DEAL.
SEEMS WE WERE LIED TO. AGAIN.
THIS IS BAD.
WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO TO US THAT THEY HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE?
RAPE OUR LAND? ENSLAVE YOU?

SURRENDER NOW!

AND THEN WHAT?

WHO WOULD YOU BE HANDING ME OVER *TO?*

DID YOU EVEN *BOTHER* TO FIND OUT *WHY* THEY LOCKED ME UP IN THE FIRST PLACE?

DO YOU EVEN KNOW *WHO* I AM? DO YOU KNOW MY OTHER SELF-- SAURON?

DO YOU KNOW *HOW* THEY FORCED SAURON TO WORK FOR THEM?

BECAUSE I REALLY THINK YOU *DON'T,* CAPTAIN.

DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT WEAPON X IS? DO YOU KNOW?

LOGAN, *YOU* KNOW. TELL THE FLAG WAVER WHAT HIS GOVERNMENT DOES WITH MUTANTS BEHIND HIS BACK.

HOW THEY SEND US ON MISSIONS TO MURDER OTHER MUTANTS WHO MIGHT END UP BEING TROUBLE.

AND THE MINUTE YOU SAY *NO* TO THEM-- THEY LOCK YOU AWAY.

WAH, WAH.

BOO-HOO.

THIS FROM YOU.

KILL THEM NOW.

KILL THEM AND DUMP THE BODIES IN THE OTHER TERRITORIES.

ANYONE EVER FINDS OUT YOU HELD CAPTAIN AMERICA AND TONY STARK LIKE THIS-- THERE'S NOT ENOUGH VIBRANIUM IN THE *WORLD* THAT'LL BUY YOU OUT OF IT.

KARL, LISTEN, THERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY HERE FOR--

NO. NO EXPERIMENTS. *KILL* THEM. KILL THEM *RIGHT NOW.*

YOU'RE JUST GIVING S.H.I.E.L.D. *EXCUSES* TO WIPE OUT EVERYTHING YOU ALL HAVE BUILT HERE.

YOU HAVE *NO* PLAN FOR THIS.

WE HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY TO TURN *THEM* INTO MUTATES AND--AND WE CAN SEND *THEM* TO ATTACK THE SURFACE WORLD.

IT'LL SEND A MESSAGE.

NOT REALLY.

KARL, YOU'RE COMING OFF RATHER UNGRATEFUL. WE'VE GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS TO GET YOU BACK HERE.

CAP, YOU HEARD ENOUGH?

ABSOLUTELY.

ALL RIGHT THEN...

ASSEMBLE.

UM, WE'RE ALREADY HERE.

I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU GUYS.

VOICE PRINT IDENTIFIED.

GOOD MORNING, MISTER STARK.

BATTLE MODE INITIATED.

ATTACK MODE. LYKOS, KARL, FILE UNLOCK 54/11 INITIATED.

FSSSSHOOOM

ATTACK MODE.

TARGET: LYKOS, KARL. FILE UNLOCK 54/11.

OH, NO, NO, NO!! NOT MY BABY!

SEE? SEE?? YOU ARROGANT--

NOOOO!!

FABOOM

UH-OH...

YEAH, YA THINK?

I SWEAR, YOU GO TO ALL THIS TROUBLE TO *NOT* BE NAKED ALL DAY AND--

ZZAAFFT

ARGH!

OKAY, THEY SCRAMBLED, I BOUGHT US TWO MINUTES.

ORDER CODE: QUIVERS!

QUIVERS ORDER RECEIVED. ATTACK MODE STANDBY.

FABOOM

SO...
...ARE YOU GUYS A TEAM NOW?
I KNOW WE'RE NEW AT THIS, BUT I'M GOING TO ASK YOU ALL TO FOLLOW MY LEAD AND COMMANDS.
IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE FIGHT AS A TEAM WITH--
DONE.
SURE. BUT I THINK WE SHOULD *ALL* GET ARMOR.
YOU GOT SEVEN BILLION DOLLARS?
WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT THE VIBRANIUM AND THEM THINKING THEY COULD DO THIS WITHOUT GETTING IN TROUBLE?
WELL, NOW WE KNOW WHY OUR FRIENDS AT S.H.I.E.L.D. DIDN'T WANT OUR HELP WITH THIS.
COME ON. YOU'RE JUST GOING TO *BELIEVE* THESE WACKOS?
I HOLD TO A SIMPLE PHILOSOPHY: JUST ASSUME EVERYONE'S A PIECE OF CRAP AND THEN BE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED IF YOU FIND ANYONE WHO AIN'T.
HEY, S.H.I.E.L.D. DOESN'T MAKE DEALS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES.
S.H.I.E.L.D. DOESN'T TRADE THE LIVES OF S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS IN EXCHANGE FOR VIBRANIUM.
IT JUST DOESN'T HAPPEN.
WE'RE A PEACEKEEPING TASK FORCE.
SOMETHING LIKE *THIS* WOULD BE THE *OPPOSITE* OF PEACE-KEEPING.
AND EVEN IF S.H.I.E.L.D. *DID* DO THINGS LIKE THIS... THE SAVAGE LAND IS OFF-LIMITS TO ALL COUNTRIES. IT'S A NO-ZONE.
AH, NUTS, I TORE MY BOOTY.
WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU CALL IT?
"BOOTY?"
A BOOT.
HARGH!
HERE WE GO!
YA GOTTA SAY IT! YA *GOTTA* SAY IT, CAP!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

LYKOS, ALL THE CRAP YOU'VE TRIED TO PULL IN YOUR CRAPPY LIFE, THIS ONE--

ARGH!

OH MY GOD...

LOGAN, NO!

BOOM

YOU SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO YOUR LEADER...

YOU *NEVER* GET TOO CLOSE TO KARL LYKOS, *EVEN* IF IT'S TO KILL HIM.

BECAUSE BY DOING SO YOU ALLOWED ME TO TAKE THE MUTANT ENERGIES OUT OF YOUR MUTT BODY AND POUR THEM INTO MINE--

--AND NOW YOU GET TO SEE *ME* FOR WHO I REALLY AM!!

SAURON!

AND WHAT YOU FEEL *NOW* IS THE POWER OF MY HYPNOTIC GAZE STOPPING YOU FROM MAKING FURTHER FOOLS OF YOURSELVES!

I WAS BROUGHT HERE FOR A REASON!!!

I WAS BROUGHT HERE FOR--

BAM

GUYS, I WANT THIS ENTIRE STRUCTURE CLEARED AND CLEANED IN TEN MINUTES.

NO SURVIVORS.

COME ON AGENT BELOVA, THAT'S--THAT'S CAPTAIN AMERICA AND--

I DON'T CARE IF IT'S RONALD MCDONALD...

NO WITNESSES MEANS NO WITNESSES.

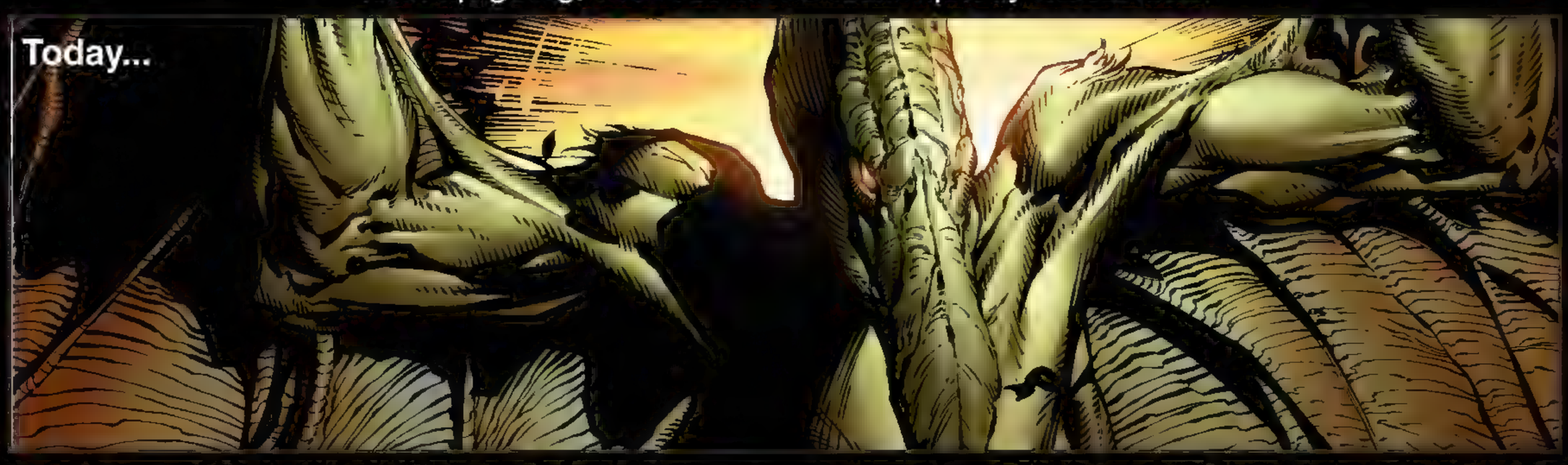
TO BE CONTINUED...

THE NEW AVENGERS®

FINCH
DANNY MIKI 04
fgd

MARVEL
PSR 6

It was the worst day in Avengers' history. The Scarlet Witch suffered a total nervous breakdown after losing control of her reality-altering powers. In the chaos created around the breakdown, many of the other Avengers were killed or hurt, both emotionally and physically. Without funding to keep going, the rest of the team quietly disbanded.



The criminal Electro is hired to infiltrate the high-tech maximum-security prison known as the Raft and break out mutant terrorist Karl Lykos. Electro sucks all the power out of Manhattan and overloads the entire island security system, setting free eighty-seven of the most dangerous and powerful criminals on Earth.

Trapped on this prison island are S.H.I.E.L.D. Agent Jessica Drew (a.k.a. Spider-Woman), blind lawyer Matt Murdock (a.k.a. Daredevil), and Luke Cage, Hero for Hire. They have come to see the most powerful super hero in the world, the Sentry, who is rotting in a solitary basement cell because he killed his wife. The gathered heroes are eventually joined by Captain America, Spider-Man, and Iron Man, who help to fight the prison riot. Inspired by these events, Captain America convinces Tony Stark to put a new Avengers team together.

Upon discovering that Lykos was broken out of the Raft, the New Avengers decide to pursue the villain all the way to the mysterious Savage Land, hidden on the continent of Antarctica. They are about to be overpowered by Lykos's alter-ego, Sauron, when he is murdered in cold blood by a rogue S.H.I.E.L.D. battalion.

The battalion is then ordered to set their sights on the Avengers.

BREAKOUT! PART SIX

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ARMOR?

ON LINE, MR. STARK.

ORDER: LOAD 20-FOOT RADIUS POLAR MAGNETIC FIELD.

INSUFFICIENT POWER CELL CHARGE.

WRONG ANSWER.

CHARGING. PLEASE STAND BY.

RAFT FILE ANALYSIS REQUEST COMPLETE.

YEAH, NOW'S NOT A GOOD TIME FOR THAT.

CHARGING. PLEASE STAND BY.

THE NERVE OF YOU, WOMAN!!

PUT YOUR GUNS DOWN AND SURRENDER!!

YOU ARE IN SERIOUS BREACH OF S.H.I.E.L.D. PROTOCOL, BABE.

I GAVE AN ORDER, GENTLEMEN!

CLEAN THE AREA!!

YEAH, BUT...

WHAT IS GOING ON?!! WHO ARE *THEY, ALL* OF A SUDDEN?

WELL, THAT'S YELENA BELOVA.

BELOHOOHUH?

THE BLACK WIDOW.

THE BLACK WIDOW'S A REDHEAD WITH BIGGER--

SHE'S *ANOTHER* ONE.

AND, HEY! YOU AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D.!!

THIS IS *CAPTAIN AMERICA* YOU'RE POINTING YOUR GUNS AT!!

WE'RE THE AVENGERS, AND I'M JESSICA DREW, S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT, LEVEL SEVEN...SO I'D THINK *TWICE* ABOUT YOUR NEXT MOVE!!

ANY OF YOU!!

I, UH, I AIN'T-- I AIN'T SHOOTIN' AT CAPTAIN AMERICA.

I'M POINT LEADER, AND OUR MISSION IS COMPROMISED. I *SAID,* PUT THEM *DOWN!!*

WELL, I--I AIN'T DOIN' IT.

THIS IS NOT A WORLD OF MEN.

POWER CELLS AT SIX PERCENT.

I'LL TAKE IT!

AGH!! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!! S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS!!

NO CASUALTIES, LOGAN! I MEAN IT!

TELL *THEM!*

AND I *STILL* HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IS *GOING ON,* EVEN MORE SO THAN USUAL!

UDDABUDDABUDDABU

ABUDDABUDDABUDDABUD

ARGH!

KTANG

AGENTS, I *ORDER* YOU TO *STAND DOWN!!*

REMEMBER THAT DINOSAUR?

I MISS THE DINOSAUR.

POLAR MAGNETIC FIELD.

POLAR MAGNETIC FIELD CHARGING.

POWER CELLS AT 11 PERCENT.

THAT'S PLENTY.

MAGNETIC FIELD ACTIVATED. LEVEL: LOW.

SPECIAL AGENT
RIDLEY MARMOLEJO

UH-OH.

HEY!! YOU THROW THAT SHIELD OF YOURS IN MY FACE ON *PURPOSE*?!

NO KILLING.

SHE TRIED TO KILL *YOU*.

AND *THAT'S* WHAT MAKES *US* BETTER THAN *THEM*.

GENTLEMEN. WE HAVE OTHER CONCERNS.

YES.

WHO AM I SPEAKING TO?

YELENA BELOVA. THE BLACK WIDOW.

THERE *WAS* A RED-HEADED ONE, RIGHT?

YELENA'S A FREELANCE S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT, LEVEL FIVE, AND CONSIDERING SHE'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE ANYWHERE NEAR THIS PART OF THE WORLD...

...CONSIDERING S.H.I.E.L.D. INTEL SAYS THERE IS *NO* S.H.I.E.L.D. ACTIVITY HERE IN THE SAVAGE LAND...

...CONSIDERING SHE JUST ORDERED A SHADOW S.H.I.E.L.D. BATTALION TO TRY TO *ASSASSINATE* US IN THE FIELD...

...I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW...

...WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF YOUR MISSION HERE, AGENT??

AND WHO PULLED THE TRIGGER ON IT?

YOU HAVE--I'LL BE HONEST--YOU *DO* HAVE A CHANCE OF GETTING OUT OF THIS PLACE *IF* YOU COUGH UP A NAME.

WITH*OUT* IT? NOT SO MUCH.

I HAVE ASSASSINATION AUTHORITY, BARBIE.

A NAME OR I TICKLE YOUR FRONTAL LOBE WITH MY VENOM BLAST.

A NAME!!!!

YOU WORKING FOR *YOURSELF*? BECAUSE I DON'T THINK YOU *ARE*!!

JESSICA--

WHO ARE YOU *WORKING FOR*??

AND WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

WHAT *DOES* IT MEAN?

NOTHING BUT COSTUMES.

I WORK FOR THE SAME PEOPLE YOU WORK FOR!!

JUST DICE HER AND LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

THAT'S NOT HOW WE--

UH... GUYS?

RRULIAARGGHUUU!!

AAIEEEEEE!!!

FFFSSSHAAZAMM

AAIEEEEEE!!!

NARGH!

KTANG

ARGH!

BOMK

DAMN!

LYKOS POPPING UP ALIVE AGAIN-- *THAT* ONE MIGHT HAVE BEEN MY FAULT.

HE ABSORBS MUTANT ENERGY. LOOKS LIKE HE TOOK SOME OF MY HEALIN' FACTOR WHEN HE GRABBED MINE.

SORRY ABOUT THAT-- I *THOUGHT* I COULD JUMP HIM.

WE WANT HIM ALIVE. IS HE?

YEAH.

GOOD.

LET'S TAKE HIM BACK TO THE SURFACE WORLD. HE'LL ANSWER FOR HIS CRIMES.

WHAT ABOUT THAT FAKE BLACK WIDOW?

EXACTLY.

I CAN TRACK HER. BUT IT DON'T SMELL PROMISING. SHE TOOK THAT HIT PRETTY HARD.

KWAAAGGHH!

WE REALLY GOTTA GET *OUT* OF HERE.

HOW ARE WE GETTIN' OUT OF HERE?

THESE ROGUE S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS GOT HERE *SOME*HOW. LET'S GO FIND *THEM* AND HITCH A RIDE.

SCANNING...

HOLD ON.

THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON ABOUT FOUR KLIKS THAT WAY. STRANGE READINGS.

PLEASE, LET'S HEAD *RIGHT* FOR THE STRANGE READINGS.

ANYONE WANT TO CARRY ME?

WHO HASN'T SLEPT IN THREE DAYS, WHO GOT HIS ARM BROKEN AND HASN'T HAD IT LOOKED AT YET, WHO IS NOW HIKING THROUGH THE TROPICAL JUNGLE IN HIS FULL-BODY LONG JOHNS AND BOOTIES.

DON'T YOU HAVE THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH OF A SPIDER?

THAT SPIDER THAT BIT YA MUST HAVE BEEN ONE WHINEY SPIDER.

BOOTIES?

ARMOR POWER AT 26%. CHARGING. SOLAR POWER CONVERTING.

ORDER: SYSTEMS CHECK.

SYSTEMS CHECK COMPLETE.

ORDER: VIRUS CHECK.

VIRUS CHECK COMPLETE. SYSTEM CLEAN.

CROSS-FILE CHECK OF S.H.I.E.L.D. RAFT FILES READY.

YEAH, OKAY. ORDER: SHOW ME WHAT YOU--

WHAT IS THIS, ARMOR? WHAT ARE YOU SHOWING ME?

TWENTY-ONE LOGGED FILES MISMATCH TO PROGRAM SOURCE. CONFIRM.

TONY?!

TONY, YOU SEE THIS?

OH MY GOD...

WHAT ARE THEY--?

VIBRANIUM IS WHAT THEY USE TO MAKE SUPER-POWERED WEAPONS.

INTERNATIONALLY CONDEMNED WEAPONS.

AND THOSE PEOPLE, THEY--

YEAH, THEY ARE ENSLAVING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF THE SAVAGE LAND TO MINE FOREIGN SOIL TO STOCKPILE RESERVES OF VIBRANIUM!

I'M RIGHT, CAP, RIGHT? IS THAT WHAT THIS IS?

THEY'RE ILLEGALLY STOCKPILING BANNED WEAPONS MATERIALS?

IS THAT WHAT WE'RE LOOKING AT?

THIS IS *OUR* GOVERNMENT DOING THIS?!!

S.H.I.E.L.D. IS A WORLD-ORDER, PEACEKEEPING TASK FORCE.

IT'S FOR NO COUNTRY AND EVERY COUNTRY.

THEN WHY WOULD A WORLD ORDE--?

I DON'T KNOW.

WHO ORDERED THIS?

I DON'T KNOW.

WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO ABOUT IT?

WE STOP THEM.

UH, GUYS...

LEVEL WHITE ENERGY FLUX INCOMING

OH NO.

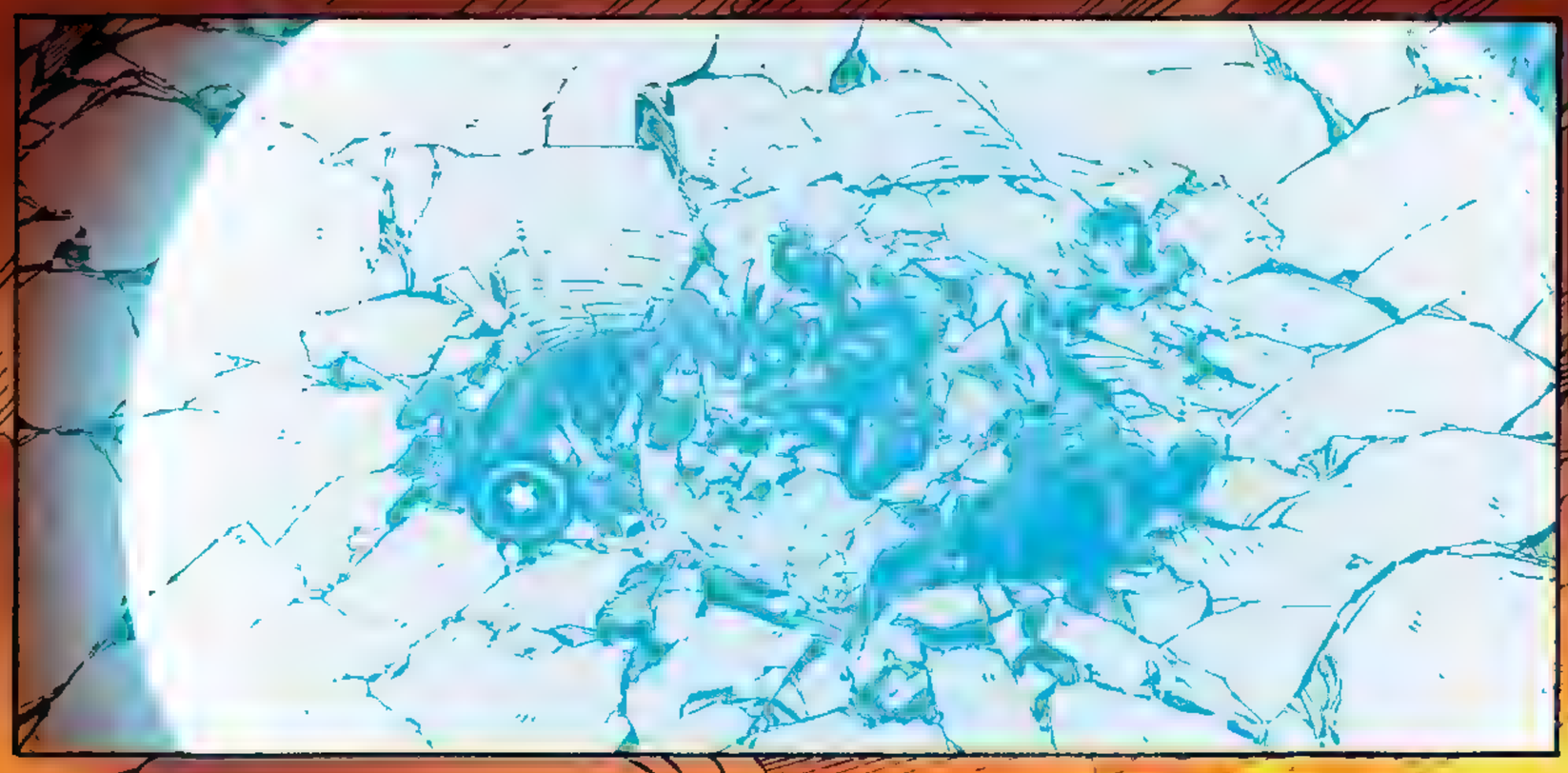
MULTIPLE ENERGY FLUXES INCOMING

OH MY...

ARMOR, REPULSOR FIELD.

ENERGIZING

FULL SHIELD!!!



YOU'RE A MURDERER, HILL!!

STAND DOWN, SOLDIER!

YOU'RE A MURDERER AND I'M GOING TO HAVE YOUR HIDE FOR THIS!!!

CAPTAIN, YOU DID YOUR INVESTIGATION, AND WE DID OURS!!

ALL ROADS LED S.H.I.E.L.D. TO THIS COVERT FACTION OF OUR OWN ORGANIZATION POACHING VIBRANIUM OFF OF FOREIGN SOIL.

THIS WAS AN ACT OF WAR!!

IMMEDIATE RETALIATION WAS ORDERED!

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE VIBRANIUM WAS GOING TO BE *USED* FOR? OR *SOLD* TO?

YOU KILLED INNOCENT--

IT WAS THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE.

WE'RE STILL INVESTIGATING.

WHO WAS BEHIND THIS "ACT OF WAR?"

YEAH, THAT INVESTIGATION SHOULD WORK WELL, WITH YOU HAVING *KILLED* EVERYONE INVOLVED.

AND ALMOST US.

OUR DEFENSE SYSTEMS WERE PREPROGRAMMING AN *HOUR* BEFORE THE OFFENSIVE LAUNCHED.

YEAH, WE BELIEVE YOU.

I *ASSURE* YOU, *"AVENGERS."*

YOU PEOPLE ARE NATIONAL TREASURES. WE WOULD *NEVER* PURPOSELY HARM YOU.

YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE THERE.

YOU ARE SO FULL OF %$#@, LADY.

I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE UPSET.

THE HELICARRIER IS HEADING BACK TO THE UNITED STATES. WE'LL DROP YOU BACK IN NEW YORK CITY ON OUR WAY TO WASHINGTON.

I'M SORRY FOR WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH TODAY.

BUT THANK YOU FOR GETTING SAURON BACK IN CUSTODY.

THE DIRECTOR OF WEAPON X WANTED ME TO TELL YOU HE APPRECIATED THE EFFORT.

SHE *AIN'T,* ACTUALLY.

I CAN SMELL IT ON A PERSON WHEN THEY ARE. SHE AIN'T LYING.

BUT THEN AGAIN, S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS ARE *TRAINED* TO LIE.

AND SHE'S THE ONE IN CHARGE. SHE'S THE TOP LIAR.

FOR THE RECORD...

...WE *DID* ASK YOU TO STAND DOWN.

YOU IGNORED US.

WHAT A LOAD OF--

WE NEED TO TALK FAST.

THERE'S MORE TO THIS.

MORE??

WHILE WE'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND, I'VE HAD MY COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYZING ALL THE DATA FROM THE RAFT'S FILES. THE PRISON.

THE FILES S.H.I.E.L.D. GAVE US ACCESS TO...WERE *TAMPERED* WITH. INCOMPLETE.

SO I PLUGGED WHAT *THEY* GAVE ME INTO AVENGERS MANSION'S OLD DATABASES.

WHICH OBVIOUSLY *THEY* DON'T KNOW ARE STILL UP AND RUNNING...

AND?

AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, AT LEAST 14 OF THOSE PRISONERS SUPPOSEDLY *DIED* YEARS AGO.

THEY ARE LEGALLY DEAD.

YET THERE THEY WERE, LOCKED AWAY IN A S.H.I.E.L.D. PRISON FACILITY.

OH NO...

WHAT DOES *THAT* MEAN?

IT MEANS THAT ON TOP OF SECRETLY STOCKPILING OTHER COUNTRIES' SUPER-POWERED WEAPON RESERVES BEFORE WE CAUGHT THEM IN THE ACT...

SOMEONE IN S.H.I.E.L.D. IS STOCKPILING POWERED CRIMINALS.

WHO?

EXACTLY *WHO* ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

WE DON'T KNOW YET.

THIS IS BAD, CAP.

THIS IS *SO* BAD.

THEN WHO DO WE TRUST WITH THIS INFORMATION?

SHOULD WE GO TO THE PRESS?

IF WE DO SOMETHING LIKE *THAT,* THE REAL BAD GUYS IN THIS, WHOEVER THEY ARE...THEY RETREAT. THEY DISAPPEAR.

SO WHAT? WE NEED TO STOP THIS RIGHT NOW. NO GAMES. RIGHT NOW.

THAT WON'T STOP THEM.

THEY ALREADY KNOW WE KNOW SOMETHING.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

THEY KNOW WE'RE THE ENEMY NOW.

THAT'S THE THING. THEY KNOW WHO *WE* ARE, WE DON'T KNOW WHO *THEY* ARE.

THIS--THIS IS MORE THAN YOU BARGAINED FOR, AVENGERS...

I'M SORRY.

IF YOU WANT OUT, KNOWING THIS-- IF YOU WANT OUT, I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND.

OUT OF WHAT? *WHAT* ARE YOU GUYS DOING TOGETHER?

WE'RE THE NEW AVENGERS.

YOU WANT IN?

IN WHAT?

UH, TONY...

CAP, YOU SAID THIS TEAM CAME TOGETHER BY...FATE. YOUR WORD.

JUST LIKE THE ORIGINAL AVENGERS...

RIGHT? YES.

WELL, THE ORIGINAL AVENGERS DIDN'T TRULY COME TOGETHER...UNTIL THAT *ONE* LAST INGREDIENT CAME INTO THE MIX.

WE NEEDED ONE LAST INGREDIENT.

AND THEN WHEN WE FOUND *YOU*...

...*YOU* WERE THAT ONE THING.

BUT FOR *THIS* TEAM, FOR *THIS* SITUATION, IN *THIS* WORLD...

...*HE* IS *YOU.*

HE IS OUR MISSING INGREDIENT.

TONY, HE'S A MURDERER.

HE'S A SAMURAI WARRIOR.

AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO US WITH WANDA, AFTER WHAT WE *KNOW* HAPPENED HERE TODAY--

--WE CAN'T AFFORD *NOT* TO HAVE HIM.

WE'RE GOING TO NEED SOMEONE TO GO TO THAT PLACE THAT WE *CAN'T.*

AND YOU KNOW *EXACTLY* WHAT I MEAN.

I WISH THAT WASN'T TRUE.

I KNOW.

HE'LL SAY NO. HE'S AN X-MAN.

HE CAN BE BOTH.

AND NO ONE SAYS NO TO RICH PEOPLE. NOT EVEN YOU.

TONY, THIS THING TODAY--

NOT SINCE THE WAR...

WE'LL FIND OUT WHO OUR ENEMIES ARE.

WE'LL FIND WHO DID THIS.

AND THEN WE'LL AVENGE IT.

YELENA.

YOU FAILED YOUR MISSION, BLACK WIDOW.

DON'T WORRY... *YOU* CAN'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR A GROUP OF QUOTE/UNQUOTE *HEROES* ALL OF A SUDDEN GROUPING TOGETHER AND DROPPING ON TOP OF YOU.

WE HAD NO WAY OF SEEING THAT HAPPENING.

TELL ME, YELENA...

IF I WERE TO TELL YOU WE COULD SET YOU UP IN A WAY THAT YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO STRIKE *BACK* AT THEM FOR WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO YOUR MEN--

YOUR LIVELIHOOD--

YOUR PRETTY FACE--

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN SEEING WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER?

KKK...

YYYES.

NEXT: WHO IS THE SENTRY?

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